



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5-15 Windrock Ave Mt Ridley PO Box 433 Craigieburn VIC 3064

Phone: 9333 0814 Fax: 9333 0843

Email: principal@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

27th February 2023

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

To All In Our Learning Community,

At the heart of our school focus, 'Hospitality and Dialogue...an invitation to encounter' is the core Christian belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. Through our interactions with others it is possible to not only discover more about ourselves and the other but to experience the presence of God. Encounters with others, however, require an openness and respect for each person with whom we come in contact—acknowledging the image of God.

During the season of Lent, Christians are invited to consider anew the core Christian belief that each person is made in God's image. Theologian Fr Frank O'Loughlin suggests Lent provides Christians with both the time and opportunity to reflect upon this belief and consider what might stop or inhibit our capacity to reflect this image. Fr O'Loughlin says: "We are created in the image of God, but what things threaten that image within us?"

The three traditional Lenten themes, prayer, fasting and almsgiving challenge believers to reflect upon their lives. Fr O'Loughlin suggests:

"Prayer takes our time and gives it over to God; in prayer we reach out beyond ourselves to God. Charity or sharing with others is taking what is ours and which we could use for ourselves and using it for others; we go beyond our own wants and needs in such giving. And fasting or self-discipline is a way of taming those desires and wants and needs within us to enable us to go beyond ourselves to others and to God".

How then might this Season of Lent enable Catholic believers to be renewed and truly make visible the image of God? How might the Season of Lent be enriched through dialogue with those of other religious beliefs strengthening, challenging and recontextualising this Catholic practice? Our Catholic Dialogue school is a perfect training ground for such thought. As Professor Didier Pollefeyt suggests, 'Catholic language' is appreciated in dialogue with - not in isolation from - other religious and philosophical 'language systems'. Therefore, how might the Buddhists, Sikh and Hindi believers in our learning community perceive this Catholic tradition? How might other Christian traditions see or understand this Catholic practice? In what ways can this Catholic tradition enable other religious traditions to consider their faith and faith traditions? In what ways are new understandings gain by the Catholic believer in such interactions?

There is such richness in our learning community through the presence of multiple faith traditions. However, this richness can only be discovered through an openness to others and a genuine desire to be hospitable to all through a recognition of the dignity of each person. How might this be nurtured in your interactions this week?

Kind regards

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 27th February

*Welcome consultant Colleen Monaghan – Mathematics
Year 3/4*

Tuesday 28th February

Year 3/4 Excursion to Melbourne Museum

Wednesday 1st March

*Parent Child Teacher Chats
Children dismissed at 1pm*

Thursday 2nd March

Friday 3rd March

*School Clean Up Day – Wear something green!
Zooper Dooper Friday
Family Movie Night*

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.**

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.

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/>

Staff Professional Learning Day

Staff will be engaged in an inquiry professional learning opportunity with Kath Murdoch on Tuesday 7th March. **There is no school for children on Tuesday March 7th.**

School Clean Up Day ~ this Friday March 3rd

Our school will participate in School Clean Up Day this coming Friday highlights our actions to care for the earth. Our actions are in keeping with Pope Francis' call outlined in Laudato Si and our ongoing sustainability learning. Children are required to wear their sports uniform and can wear something green. During the day each learning space will participate in a Clean Up School learning opportunity.

Reconciliation Preparation and Celebration Dates 2023

Please take note of the following dates for the preparation and celebrations of Reconciliation

Reconciliation Child and Parent Workshop

Date: Wednesday 8th March 2023

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Mother Teresa Primary School

Children preparing for Reconciliation must attend the workshop with a parent or guardian

Reconciliation Sign up and Presentation Weekend

Date: Saturday 18th March 2023 or Sunday 19th March 2023

Saturday @ 6:30 PM	Our Lady's Craigieburn	Vigil mass
Sunday @ 8:00 AM	Our Lady's Craigieburn	Sunday Mass
Sunday @ 9:30 AM	Good Samaritan Chapel Roxburgh Park	Sunday Mass
Sunday @ 11:00 AM	Our Lady's Craigieburn	Sunday Mass
Sunday @ 6:00 PM	Our Lady's Craigieburn	Sunday Mass

You are required to attend one of the parish masses with your child

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Date: Thursday March 23rd, 2023

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: **Our Lady's Church, Craigieburn**

There will be **one celebration** of the Sacrament of Reconciliation within our learning community.

NAPLAN Test Dates

This year children in Year 3 and Year 5 will undertake the NAPLAN tests this term beginning Wednesday 15th of March. The key dates for sitting for NAPLAN are;

Wednesday 15th March – Year 3 and Year 5 Writing, Year 3 and Year 5 Reading

Thursday 16th March – Year 3 and Year 5 Language Conventions, Year 3 and Year 5 Numeracy

Children who are absent on the day of NAPLAN can have the opportunity to sit catch-up tests which are scheduled after the dates above. If you have questions or concerns about NAPLAN please speak to your child's Learning Space Teacher.

School Clean-Up Day – Friday March 3rd

This Friday 3rd of March is School Clean-Up Day. Children across the school will be engaging in various sustainable actions across this day and are invited to wear something green.

Parents & Friends News

Movie night this 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.

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

“Personalization of learning is perhaps one of the only ways to truly transform the educational experiences of students.” (Yong Zhao in 'Getting Personal with Inquiry Learning' by Kath Murdoch)



As part of **Faith and Life inquiry**, we have been **tuning and finding out** about being **researchers**. As researchers we have been focusing on the skill of **being**

curious using the **thinking move** of *wondering*. Through the **provocation** of the picture book, *The Wonder of Winsome* by Kath Murdoch, many of us have been **wondering** about many of our learning opportunities and **making our thinking visible** to develop our own wondering walls. Wonder walls are **opportunities** for us to be able to share our own questions, which can become an opportunity to plan our own **personal inquiries**. Personal inquiries are also an opportunity to help us understand the **inquiry process**. In the coming weeks we will have **time and opportunity** as researchers and inquirers to zoom in to the **Sorting Out phase of inquiry** and **make a plan** about the ways we might find out answers and **develop theories** about our wonderings. The disposition of **curiosity** and the ability to wonder is essential as we continue to learn about the inquiry process and how to be inquirers ourselves. Our **curiosity and wonderings** have extended to **Ash Wednesday** and the season of **Lent**. After engaging in **Mass**, as **hermeneutical learners** we engaged in **dialogue with each other** to sort out discoveries about Ash Wednesday. Our discoveries may lead to new wonderings as we **tune in, find out** and **sort out** our thinking about Lent. In connection to Lent we will inquire into the Catholic tradition and practices of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. We will read **Matthew's gospel (6:1-6, 16-18)** to **extend our thinking** to identify how this tradition has its roots in the scriptures. We will **interpret the text** to think about how Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, fast and about almsgiving. As we continue to engage in dialogue through Lent, we will be invited to **recontextualise** this tradition for us today.

Interpreting
text and
symbols

As literacy learners we continue to bring in **seeds for writing** and shape these through **making our thinking visible** in **writer's notebooks**. Some of us have been focusing on what our **purpose** is for writing and the message we want to give our readers. Some of us have been **looking closely** at exemplar texts to find out how authors make their writing interesting. In **connection** to our Faith and Life inquiry, we will be **finding out** how our **wonderings** can become seeds for writing. As researchers we will **read and view** a variety of different texts as exemplars, (for example information reports, recounts and explanations) to make discoveries about how we can shape our thinking into **different purposes** for writing.



As mathematical thinkers we are continuing to focus on the concepts of counting and place value. Some of us have been focusing on understanding how to count with **one to one correspondence** and how to **match numerals to a collection of objects**. Others have been focusing on **naming and noticing** number **patterns** on a 100s chart, including counting by 10s from different numbers. As reflective thinkers we have been developing the thinking move of **generalizing** to **justify** our thinking

about **how number patterns work**. Some of us will also be continuing to **identifying the value of digits** in two, three or four digit numbers.



We look forward this week to our Parent/Teacher/Child chats where we will be sharing our goals for our learning. Please book your interview time through the 'Trybooking' website and remember that all children will be dismissed at **1pm on Wednesday**.

Thank you also to the number of parents who would like to volunteer in our learning spaces. We are finalizing our parent helper timetable and be in touch with you this week in connection to the learning opportunities you will engage in.

This **Friday 3rd of March**, we will have the **opportunity** to engage in **School Clean-Up Day**. On this day **we are invited to wear something green** and will be engaging in **sustainable actions** around our school with our buddies.

Bridging Centre ***Year 3 – 4 Learning Spaces***

Religious Education is a space where young people can invest in their own searching and their own attempts to derive understandings and meaning from their encounters with the Gospels and the faith tradition. In this way, the multireligious and multiphilosophical context of today is not a threat to

Christin faith but a new opportunity to encounter others and thereby more deeply understand oneself and one's tradition in relation to the other. Professor Didier Pollefeyt

As a **Catholic dialogue school**, we are **tuning in** and **finding out** about the three **Lenten practices** – **praying, fasting and almsgiving**. We are using the **key thinking moves, describing, looking closely, interpreting, wondering, activating our prior knowledge and making connections** while looking at a provocation of **symbols**. These included the **purple cloth, Project Compassion donation box and a candle**. As we **focus on prayer** as part of the **Catholic faith tradition** and the **opportunities** we have each day to prayer as a **learning community**; we will also **look closely** at the **prayer space**. These will include the **lectern, our Mother Teresa candle, the message stick, and our possum skin cloak**. As **thinkers**, we are **engaging in the art of interpretation of reflecting critically** on what we know but also the **significance** these **symbols** have in the **Catholic faith**. We will remain **open to different perspectives** and **value multiplicity of voices and practises** through our **dialogue**.

As **researchers, collaborators, communicators, contributors, thinkers and self-managers**, we are continuing to **explore** our compelling question *'Australia: how is our story told?'* We will have **time and opportunity** to visit **Melbourne Museum on Tuesday 28th February** to engage in the **First People's exhibition** as well as other places within the Museum. As part of **finding out**, we are **identifying** how our story is told? From whose perspective does this story tell? What has changed over time, what has stayed the same? Prior to this visit we will view the Melbourne Museum website and **develop** some **wonderings**.

As **writers**, we are continuing to **engage in process** of **Writer's Notebook**. We are continuing to **dialogue** about what are the **purpose of seeds** and a writer's notebook and engaging in dialogue about the different thinking routines we can engage in to **make our thinking visible**. Students are encouraged to bring seeds into school to use as part of **Writer's Notebook** and to share with others.

As **mathematicians**, we are continuing to **explore** the **place value** of numbers and **finding efficient and effective strategies** to help us with **counting patterns**. As **thinkers**, we are beginning to **tune in to time** including **reading and interpreting calendars, identifying quarter past, quarter to and half past and converting between time**. At the beginning of each day, we are **recognising the time, the day of the week, the month of the year and date** to help us understand and solve simple problems.

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**

When teachers use thinking routines, they help students develop their ability to think, building up a repertoire of thinking moves. This process is further enhanced when we explicitly name the thinking and cue it up in our introduction of a routine as a thinking tool meant to serve a purpose. When we make thinking visible through our use of thinking routines, documentation questioning and listening, we send a message to students that thinking is valued.

Ritchhart & Church 2020

As part of our Faith and life inquiry understanding, **'Historical information is told and seen through different perspectives'**, as part of the **finding out phase of inquiry**, as **readers and inquirers**, we are **identifying how ideas in literary texts** can be conveyed from **different viewpoints**. Different viewpoints can lead to **different kinds of interpretations and responses** to texts. We are **engaging in** the thinking moves **observing closely, connection making, interpreting and wondering**, through the thinking routines, **See-Think-Wonder** and **Connect-Extend-Challenge**, as we explore the **narrative voice** in texts **from Indigenous Peoples**, which include **perspectives** of the Stolen Generation, how we should care for the Earth, racism and contemporary protests.

As part of finding out about the **season of Lent**, this week we are engaging in a **Q&A Caritas Webinar**. As **researchers**, we have discovered that Caritas Australia is the international aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church and that each year Project Compassion runs during the six weeks of the Church season of Lent. As **curious and open-minded inquirers** we will **learn about life in different countries** through the **personal stories of people who have participated in Caritas Australia** supported programs. As **researchers**, as part of **tuning in**, we will view a short film clip about Laxmi, and engage in the thinking routine **The 3 Whys: Why might this story about Laxmi matter to me? Why might it matter to people around me (family, friends, nation)? Why might it matter to the world?** We will **document** some **wonderings** to ask during our **Q&A session on Zoom**, where we will engage directly with Caritas Australia's program staff to help us **find out** and make **discoveries**.



As **mathematicians** some of us our **engaging in learning opportunities** related to **continuing patterns** by **adding or subtracting decimals**. We are **comparing, ordering and representing decimals** and **locating decimals on a number line**. Some of us are **adding and subtracting decimal numbers to thousandths**, and **using estimation and rounding to check the reasonableness of our answers**. Some of us are **making connections between fractions, decimals and percentages** as **different representations of the same number**. As **mathematicians** we are also engaging in **reasoning mathematically** through **problem solving learning opportunities** with our **new mathematical resource - Think Tanks** which **foster our thinking skills and increase our procedural fluency**. As **mathematical thinkers** we will engage in the **thinking moves activating our prior knowledge, reasoning with evidence, raising questions and identifying new ideas** through the thinking routine **Claim-Support-Question**.



This **Friday, 3rd March**, is **School Clean Up Day** and we are **invited to wear something green**. We will **explore ways** we can **'Step Up'** and make a **pledge** to improve the environment. As part of **Statistics and Probability** and as part of **Clean Up School Day**, we will have **time and opportunity** to **collect categorical and numerical data** by observation when we engage in **learning opportunities** with our **F-Year 2 Buddies** and **explore our package free lunch boxes**. As **mathematicians** we will **identify the best methods of presenting this data to illustrate the results of our investigations and justify the choice of our representations**.



As **inquirers**, as part of **tuning in**, we will **document** our **first thinking** in relation to our current understanding about **iTime**, which is an opportunity for us to **engage in personal inquiries** related to **our passions and interests**. We will **engage** in the thinking moves **uncovering personal reactions, decision making and planning** through the thinking routine **Compass Points**. This will help us to us identify **our current understanding and feelings** about **iTime** as we **document** what **excites** us about **iTime**, what we are **worried** about **iTime**, what else we **need to know and find out** about **iTime** and any **suggestions and opinions** we have about **iTime**. We will have **time and opportunity** to **explore** some **iTime journals** from children that have engaged in **iTime** in the past and **document** what we are **naming and noticing** about the way the personal inquiries have been documented.

Cyber Safety

Upcoming FREE eSafety Parent Webinars

Webinar	Date and Time	Registration Link
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<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 	<p>Monday 21 March 7:30pm to 8:00pm</p>	<p>https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/9079267171533697803</p>
<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 Tuesday 14 March 12:30pm to 1:00pm</p>	<p>https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1671877126416238091</p>
<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>14 March 7:30pm to 8:15pm</p>	<p>https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1334321559130979344</p>

Term One Dates 2023

Wednesday 1st March

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

Parent/Child/Teacher Chats – Children dismissed at 1pm

School Clean-Up Day – children are invited to wear something green

Parents and Friends Family 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.



KOLBE CATHOLIC COLLEGE GREENVALE



COLLEGE TOUR

Tuesday **28 March** at **5:30pm**

We are delighted to invite you into our College to meet the Principal and tour our facilities.

Register online now



scan me

www.kolbecc.catholic.edu.au