



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

21st August 2023,

"We cannot put ourselves directly in the presence of God if we do not practice internal and external silence.

In silence we will find new energy and true unity.

Silence gives us a new outlook."

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who received the sacrament of Confirmation yesterday. Bishop Terry the conferring bishop challenged those gathered to consider the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He reminded the confirmation candidates, and the congregation, that as Spirit filled people through encounters with others, and the ways in which Christians act, reflects God's Spirit within them. This acknowledgement of the Spirit draws on the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. The gift of the Spirit present in all Christian believers is transformative.

This notion of transformation is reflective of the particularity or uniqueness of the Catholic understandings of Confirmation. The Enhancing Catholic School Identity scholars offer some thought on the sacrament highlighting the ongoing nature of faith understandings and the invitation to witness to the presence of God in the world.

- Confirmation is not just a coming-of-age ceremony but it is also *a sacrament of growth in faith and participation within the Church community.*
- Confirmation is not just about being initiated as a member of a group but it is also about *sharing in the life, faith and values of the faith community.*
- Confirmation is not just about knowledge and skills for adulthood but it is also about *continuing to develop one's knowledge of the faith to be an authentic witness in the world.*
- Confirmation is not just about proving one's worthiness to be accepted as an adult in the community but it is also *having one's status within the Church community confirmed.*
- Confirmation is not just about taking on new roles within a group but it is also about *being transformed into a new creation by participating in divine love.* <https://ecsi.site/au/recontextualising-sacraments-confirmation/>

As a member of a faith community what is your thinking about being transformed through faith? How does it impact on your encounters with others? How does your religious tradition express growth in faith and witness to the faith you hold?

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 21st August

Welcome Murrundindi

Tuesday 22nd August

Kids Helpline Year 5/6

Author visit Michael Wagner Foundation – Year 2

Year 5/6 group Melbourne Museum

Professional learning – Planning

Wednesday 23rd August

Author visit – Michael Wagner Foundation - Year 2

Professional Learning – Faith & Life Inquiry

Thursday 24th August

Author visit – Michael Wagner Year Foundation –

Year 2

Friday 25th August

Author visit – Michael Wagner Year Foundation –

Year 2

School Closure Monday 4th September

Staff will be engaged in planning for term 4 on Monday 4th September. **There will be no school for children on this day.**

Term 4 closure days will be Monday 6th November and Friday 8th December

(Please note the update to the term dates at the end of the newsletter reflecting the dates in this section of the newsletter- great to see so many read the newsletter☺).

Confirmation Celebration

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation yesterday. Thank you to our Year 5/6 team for all their preparation of the children and to Mrs. Leahy for her preparation with the children, facilitation of our child/parent workshop and liaising with the parish team.

Particular thanks is extended to the parishioners of our parish who spent their Saturday setting up Kolbe Catholic College stadium for the celebration. The set up was most conducive to a prayerful celebration.

Term fee accounts

Our final billing period will occur this week with fee accounts for term 3 emailed to families. Please check your inbox, bin or spam for your account. Fees are an important part of our school income. Payment is due Friday 1st September. Please attended to your account to save follow ups from administration staff.

Father's Day - Open morning and morning tea

Our Father's day open morning and morning tea will be held on **Friday 1st September between 8.30 – 10am.**

On this day the children will share learning and spend time with their dad or significant adult. The children will share a cup cake with their learning group on the day while dads are invited to have morning tea in our prayer space.

8.30 – 9.30am - Open learning spaces.

8.30- 10.00am – Tea, Coffee and pastries available for Dads.

We look forward to seeing dads or a significant adult join us at our open morning. For those dads unable to join us due to work commitments we continue to be grateful for the many ways you support our school and your child's learning.

Father's Day Stall

Our Father's day stall will take place on Friday 1st September. All children will be given the opportunity to purchase a gift for their dad or any other special person in their lives. All gifts cost \$5.00. Children are asked to bring a gift bag/plastic bag or carry bag for their gift.

Re-enrolment 2024

In order to plan effectively for our 2024 school year, families are asked to complete and return a reenrolment form that can be accessed via our Audiri App (Skoolbag). The re enrolment process is an important one as it assists in preparation for learning spaces particularly given that we have demand for places in a number of year levels for 2024.

Mother Teresa Feast Day Mass ~ Tuesday 5th September

We will begin our feast day with the celebration of Mass at 9.15am at the school. Families are most welcome to join in the celebration of Mass and a morning tea in the multipurpose learning space after Mass.

Pizza Lunch – Tuesday 5th September

On Tuesday 5th September Parents and Friends are organising a Pizza Lunch for the children, as part of our Mother Teresa Feast Day celebrations. Please complete the order form which will be sent home this week

Mother Teresa Feast Day AFL inflatables - Thursday 7th September

As part of our Mother Teresa feast celebration we will have the AFL inflatables on Thursday 7th September. All children will have the opportunity to engage in this fun actively. The children are invited to wear their favourite team colours or sports clothes on this day.

Murrundindi Pty Ltd Merchandise

Murrundindi has joined with his son Palyan to create a clothing ranged named Murrundindi Pty Ltd. The school has a number of these items available for purchase at the school reception.

Caps \$25

Tote bags \$20

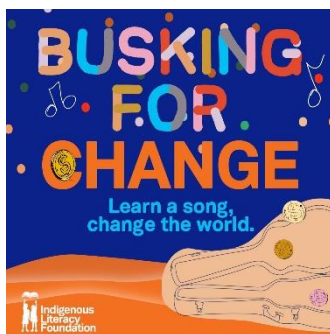
Payment can be made in cash or through transfer to Murrundindi Pty Ltd NAB BSB- 083 543 A/C- 157680227.

Mini Vinnies News

Indigenous Literacy Foundation – Busking for Change and Second-Hand Book Sale



As part of Mini Vinnies, once again we are supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF). The ILF, “...is a national charity of the Australian book industry, working with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities across the Nation.” (ILF) The work of the ILF seeks to close the literacy gap that exists between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians.



This year we are participating in *Busking for Change*. ‘Busking for Change’ invites schools around Australia to learn and perform the song, *Words Make the World go ‘Round* by Josh Pyke. We have created a singing group who are learning the song and will be busking to raise money (time and date TBA) If you would like to donate in support of the work of the ILF and our goal of raising \$500 you can do so via our fundraising page -

<https://buskingforchange.ilf.org.au/mother-teresa-catholic-primary-school>

We will also be holding a second-hand book sale to raise money but also provide opportunities for our learning community to recycle and reuse books. If you have any books you no longer want you can begin to leave book donations in boxes around the school. We will confirm the date of our book sale in next week’s newsletter

Massimo and Vivien on behalf of Mini Vinnies

Food and toiletries donations

As part of our ongoing support of the St. Vincent DePaul Craigieburn Chapter, we are inviting our families to donate when they non-perishable food items and toiletries on an ongoing basis. Baskets will continue to be located in the main building, Bridging and Leadership centres for donations for the remainder of the year.

Many thanks for the ongoing support of our Learning Community.

Benjamin on behalf of Mini Vinnies

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

“Make sure you’re ready for the moment when inspiration strikes” – Michael Wagner

As **researchers**, we have been **activating our prior knowledge** around stories and the different forms of stories by engaging in different forms of art. The children have engaged in the thinking routine **See-Think-Wonder** to name and notice “How is the story being told?” and “Who might this story be for?” through the following opportunities:

- Indigenous art work
- Animation
- A piece of music
- Flight of the Bumble Bee – violin/orchestra
- Plays
- Listening to story
- A dance
- Drama
- Puppet show
- Song
- Story Book

As part of **finding out** about author **Michael Wagner**, we **engaged** in the thinking moves, **observing closely** and **noticing** as we **viewed a short film clip** and **listened to** some of the Picture Story Books. As part of **sorting out** our thinking, we **engaged** in the thinking moves **making connections** and **identifying new ideas** as we **recalled events** and the **main ideas** we **discovered** when viewing and listening to different Michael Wagner texts.



As **hermeneutical learners** we will extend our thinking about the scripture text ‘Galatians’. We will listen again to the text and **engage in dialogue** about what this means today. We will dialogue about ways we might show love and kindness and what this might look like through a catholic lens.

As **literacy learners** we will use the comprehension strategy **visualising** to picture in our mind what God’s Spirit might be like. We will listen to a music piece and visualise our understanding, and document using pictures, colours and symbols to help us **see new layers of meaning** about the text. We will **reflect critically** about what this text might mean by sharing any wonderings we might have. We will document our thinking in our Faith and Life Inquiry journals.

As **researchers** and **mathematicians**, we had the opportunity to **identify, describe and order** Australian coins according to their value. As part of **finding out** more we used a variety of coins and made connections to skip counting to consider how many 10c, 20c and 50c coins make \$1. The learning spaces continuing to explore money, **recognise**, and **describe** Australian coins according to their value (features, colour of the coin tells you if it’s a dollar or cent), **order** Australian coins according to their value and identify **equivalent values** in collections of coins or notes, such as two five-cent coins having the same value as one 10-cent coin.

As **readers**, we will continue to explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, and the ways in which we can apply **reading behaviours** to help us decode words and build our comprehension of texts. We have engaged in reading a range of texts in focus groups and independently to consolidate reading strategies and behaviours that we have previously explored.

A reminder - It is expected that students identify all **307 Oxford Sight Words** by the end of **Term 3**. In addition to targeted teaching and practice of words at school, daily practice at home is essential to

support your child in reaching this goal. If sight words are at home, could these also be returned with the two rings, pencil case and all word cards? Learning space teachers continue to check children's rings and updating their sight words.

In Foundation to Year 2, there has been some interest in Parent Helpers. If you wish to volunteer within the Learning spaces, please speak to your child's teacher for further information.

Bridging Centre Year 3– 4 Learning Spaces

"Listening and questioning are the basis for positive classroom interactions that can in turn shape meaningful collaboration, which can then build a culture of thinking. At the heart of these two practices lies a respect for and interest in students' thinking." — Ron Ritchhart

As part of **reflecting upon** our **Faith and Life Inquiry compelling question 'How does art connect communities?'** we will **time** and **opportunity** to come together and continue to **develop** skills as **communicators**. Focusing on the statement- *I can respect, value and respond to other's opinions*, we are **pausing** and **reflecting** on our **thinking** about what we have **discovered** so far through our Faith and Life Inquiry. These include our jigsaw **learning opportunities** around public art, readings about different artforms and learning opportunities such as our time with Murrundindi. As **thinkers**, we will **engage** in the **+1 Thinking routine**. We will **recall ideas, words, phrases that connect to our thinking** so far, allow our **peers** to **add their thinking** and together **contribute our thinking** together.



As a **Catholic dialogue school**, we have spent **time opening** our **hermeneutical space** while **engaging** in the **reading** from the **letter of Paul to the Galatians**. As we have **remained respectful** to the **thinking of others** and **shown inclusivity of different perspectives and interpretations**; we have **considered** what *this text talks to us of a world in which* – **looking** at this reading from a **future orientated perspective**. As part of **reflecting** on this **scripture** we **reflected** on the **thinking** we **engaged** in and **looked closely** at some **hermeneutical prompts**. We **chose** our own in which we **engaged** in during the **dialogue** and **articulated** our thinking with others.



As part of **finding out**, during this term, Year 3/4 students will be **engaging** in the **Kids Helpline workshop – Bullying**. This is an **opportunity** for **children to engage** with a **qualified Kids Helpline counsellor** and **explore** what **actions and behaviours** makes up **bullying, bullying vs mean moment, exploration of why bullying happens, the impacts of bullying and being an upstander**. This **interactive and engaging workshop** will provide children with the **opportunity to discover strategies to deal with Bullying**. The dates of the workshops are on: Monday 28th August & Tuesday 29th August.

As **mathematicians**, we are **tuning in** and **finding out** about **2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes**. Last Friday, some of us had **time** and **opportunity** to **engage** with our **Mathematics consultant Colleen Monaghan** to **explore hands on opportunities** and **different ways to learn about shapes and area**. As **thinkers**, we are being **flexible** and **open-minded** as we use **concrete materials** to **describe and draw 2D shapes and make models of 3D objects and describe key features**. As part of **making connections to our prior knowledge**, we are continuing to **find the area and volume** of shapes as part of **applying** our **knowledge of multiplication and division**.

As a reminder and as part of **agreed ways of living and learning at Mother Teresa**, it is an **expectation** that students **engage** in **home learning** each night. This includes **reading** and **engaging** in a **numeracy task** whether this is counting or 'Goodies and Baddies' (multiplication and division facts) or open-ended questions. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's learning space teacher.

Leadership Centre

Year 5–6 Learning Spaces

If we identify, communicate, and scaffold the thinking needed in every task to support students' development as effective thinkers, *then* student understanding will deepen, and students will focus primarily on the learning over the mere completion of work.

Ron Ritchhart 2023



As part of **finding out** about our Faith and life inquiry understanding, **The Arts can be used to raise awareness of significant events and issues**, today we engaged with our friend and indigenous elder, Murrundindi. We had time and opportunity to engage in the thinking moves **making connections, identifying new ideas** and **wondering** as we **explored artworks** by **Aboriginal artist, William Barak**, and listened to Murrundindi share how Barak used his paintings to teach and lead his people about ceremonies, Aboriginal history, spirituality and customs.

As **curious readers** we are **selecting, navigating** and **reading** a variety of **multimodal texts**. Whilst reading we are using our **comprehension strategies** to assist us to **analyse information** and **link ideas** from a variety of print and digital sources. As part of **finding out** about our Faith and Life inquiry understanding, **Art can capture the different perspectives of a moment in time**, as **curious researchers** we are **engaging in reading and viewing texts** from **different sources** to help us find out about **Pablo Picasso, Banksy, Vincent Van Gough, William Barak, Archie Roach** and the **Bangarra Dance Theatre**. We will use the **thinking moves questioning, connection making** and **identifying new ideas** as we **contribute** to a **collaborative data chart**. In particular we will focus on What is the art form? What is the artist trying to express? What perspective is being shared? and What is our personal interpretation? **As writers** we are using our 'seeds', as part of our Writer's Notebook. **As reflective and critical thinkers** we are **engaging 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.

As **curious inquirers** some of us will be engaging in the **Future Cities: Designing for Sustainability workshop at Melbourne Museum**. This is an opportunity for us to be immersed in a day-long **STEM design challenge** with a human-centred approach to "design a better world". **As researchers** we will view a **Digital showcase - River Connection** (Melbourne Museum, Learning Lab) and engage in an **immersive projection experience** made in collaboration with First Peoples community members exploring their close connections to the land, animals, plants and rivers of Victoria. Throughout the day we will have an **opportunity to meet and hear from experts in science, design, and technology** and **utilise technology materials** to create our ideas, tinker, and prototype physical solutions to real problems.



**FUTURE CITIES:
DESIGNING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**

As **mathematical thinkers**, we will engage in the thinking moves **activating prior knowledge, making connections** and **wondering** as we explore word problems from our mathematical resource - **Think Tanks**. Some of us are engaging in word problems related to area and perimeter, and some of us are engaging in word problems related to angles. **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**.

Term Three Dates 2023

Friday 1st September

Father's day open morning and morning tea

Sunday 3rd September

Father's day stall

Monday 4th September

Father's day

School Closure day – Staff Planning

No school for children this day

Tuesday 5th September

Mother Teresa Feast Day

Thursday 7th September

Mother Teresa Feast day celebration AFL inflatables

Tuesday 12th September

Experience Music Soiree

Friday 15th September

Term 3 ends at **1.30pm**

Term Four Dates 2023

Monday 2nd October

Term 4 begins 8.50am

Wednesday 4th October

Year 5/ 6 excursion to Healesville group 1

Friday 6th October

Year 5/6 excursion to Healesville group 2

Thursday 12th October

Year 5/ 6 excursion to Healesville group 3

Monday 23rd October

Year 5/6 excursion to Melbourne Zoo

Tuesday 24th October

Year 5/6 – 3 excursion to Parliament

Wednesday 25th October

Foundation – Year 2 excursion to Melbourne Zoo

Thursday 26th October

Foundation – Year 2 excursion to Melbourne Zoo

Monday 30th October

Foundation – Year 2 excursion to Melbourne Zoo

Monday 6th November

Year 3/4 excursion to Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary

School Closure Day – report Writing

No school for children this day

Tuesday 7th November

Melbourne Cup- Public holiday

No school for children this day

Wednesday 15th November

Foundation 2024 Orientation session 1

Wednesday 22nd November

Foundation 2024 Orientation session 2

Thursday 30th November

Kolbe Orientation Day Year 7 2024

Friday 8th December

School Closure Day – planning 2024

No school for children this day

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