



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Phone: 7303 1200

Email: principal@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

28th August 2023,

"During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats: our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace." Pope Francis 2023

To All In Our Learning Community,

The face of Greta Thunberg is not unfamiliar to us. Greta a Swedish environmental activist has long challenged world leaders to take up actions that will bring about a more sustainably world now and for the future. Interestingly Greta's initial action was to challenge her own parents to take up a lifestyle that reduced their carbon footprint. While beginning with small actions Greta has become a worldwide figure for environmental change.



In 2009 the children at Mother Teresa PS engaged in an inquiry focussed on the concept Environment. As part of their finding out they discovered the destruction caused by waste that entered our waterways. It is images such as the one on the left that left them horrified as they discover the impact of our lifestyle. As with all inquiry it is not a true inquiry if it does not lead to future learning and often taking action. The action undertaken by our first cohort of students at Mother Teresa PS in 2009 was to promote a package free school. This is the origins of our package free lunch boxes. At this time our first worm farm were also introduced and the reduction of general waste.

This coming Friday marks Pope Francis' World Day of Prayer for the Care of the Environment and the Season of Creation. This week at whole school prayer we will focus on the gift of creation. Within the Judeo-Christian tradition creation is believed to have been created by God reflected in the story of creation in the book of Genesis. The human person is invited to enjoy the gift and to responsibly care for this gift. At our whole school prayer today we prayed:

God of the universe, we thank you for your many good gifts.

For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits,

For clean water and fresh air for food and shelter, animals and plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species. And help us to willingly share your gifts today and always.

How we might re-commit to caring for the environment? How can we reduce our carbon footprint? In what ways might the Mother Teresa School community witness to the call for a sustainable future for all peoples.

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 28th August

Welcome Rick & Andy Why Worry Wally workshops

MACSSIS surveys open

Tuesday 29th August

Kids Helpline Year 3/4

Professional learning – Planning

Wednesday 30th August

Kids Helpline Year 6 Transition

Professional Learning – Faith & Life Inquiry

Thursday 31st August

Welcome Murrundindi

Friday 1st September

Father's Day open morning and morning tea

Father's Day stall

Father's Day - Open morning and morning tea

Our Father's day open morning and morning tea will be held this coming **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 this coming 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.

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

Take Home Books and Novels ~ Care required

Borrowing books is an important part of our Home learning. We are currently experiencing damage to Take Home books including ripping, drawing, and cutting on pages of books as well as books damaged through water spillage. While we consider ourselves well-resourced at Mother Teresa School we do not have money to waste! Please ensure that children are caring for books borrowed and keep them from younger children.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)

Today families will receive a personal email letter regarding school improvement surveys. This email will contain links to the survey, along with a personal pin inviting you to take part in our school survey. The feedback is invaluable to our progress as effective school communities and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices.

The survey will close on Friday 15th September the final day of term 3.

Term fee accounts

Fee accounts for term 3 were emailed to families last week. 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.

Re-enrolment 2024 ~ Please complete this week

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

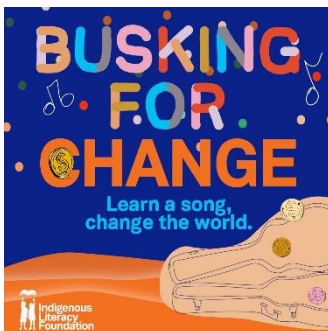
Tote bags \$20

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.

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

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

Last week we had opportunities to engage with children’s author, Michael Wagner. We found out about the process he uses to create stories such as using the five senses and storyboarding. To **sort out** our thinking, we will take the time to think back over this experience by using the 4 Steps reflection tool. We will consider what we learned, why we found out about writing stories and what we might do next. As part of shared writing, some of us will have opportunities to use the five senses and consider the different words to use in our writing.

To continue **finding out** about stories and artwork, we are exploring the idea that everyone has a story to share. We will be engaging in dialogue with our parents about our own personal stories and bring in objects or images to share these stories. We will have opportunities over the next week to retell these stories through actions, materials, sounds and words. This will provide opportunities to reflect and consider how sharing our stories can help us understand ourselves and others.

In **mathematical thinking**, we will be **tuning in** and **finding out** about fractions. We will have opportunities to model fractions using concrete materials and drawings to allow us to develop a sense of fractional quantity. We will develop our understanding of halves, thirds and quarters and connect to the idea that a fraction is part of a whole. Some of the experiences we might engage in to create meaningful connections are making fairy bread, looking at chocolate bars and kinder squares. We will also **make connections** to the concept of time such as telling time to the half hour and quarter past. Some of the mathematical language we will build on include, half past, quarter to, one whole, halves and quarters.

As **thinkers** and **hermeneutical learners**, we will **sort out** our thinking about the Holy Spirit in the Catholic tradition. As **researchers**, we will read about the symbols of the Holy Spirit from an information text. We will **wonder** why the Holy Spirit is symbolized as a dove or as fire. We will be **curious** and think about what these two symbols do to help us understand what the Holy Spirit is like. We will reread the scripture about Galatians and use loose parts to show what we understand about the Holy Spirit.

Bridging Centre

Year 3– 4 Learning Spaces



As **thinkers**, most learners have had the opportunity to observe a range of **artworks** that are connected to **communities**. Through identifying what they think the artist is communicating and any connections they can make to the artworks, children have been **reflecting** on our understanding **‘The arts can help give people a sense of belonging and identity within a community’**. We will continue to explore a range of artworks including those showing significant historical events and by observing these closely, we will identify what the purpose of these artworks is and what the artist is trying to communicate.

As **mathematicians**, we will be continuing to explore **shapes**, including both 2D and 3D as well as incorporating measuring **area** and **volume** of these shapes. Some learners will be focusing on identifying the **features** of different shapes, whilst others will be focusing on identifying the **area** or **volume** of different shapes. When measuring the area of shapes we have been exploring the use of **formal** and **informal** units of measurement and the impact this has on how we measure. We will be extending our knowledge of shape and beginning to explore symmetry and transformation in the world around us.

As **readers**, we have been exploring a range of texts connected to our inquiry, including those showing the stories of different artists and how they came to be known for their artform. We will continue to respond to these texts by identifying both **literal** and **inferential** questions and sharing our thinking by using a range of different **visual organisers** such as mind maps and venn diagrams.

Some learners will have the opportunity to engage in a **Kids Helpline session** this week focusing on **bullying**. Through reflecting on what we discover children will have the opportunity to share their thinking in their own way. Whether that be using a visual organiser, making a poster or even an artwork, the choice will be up to the child!

Home Learning Agreed Ways and Expectations

A reminder that it is an agreed way at Mother Teresa Primary, to engage in home learning every night and that it be documented in your child's reading log and counting sheet. These are checked daily by staff. If you have any questions about these please speak to your child's teacher.

Leadership Centre

Year 5–6 Learning Spaces

When presenting a task, we need to make it a habit to lead with the thinking students will need to do and the purpose of that thinking.

Ron Ritchhart 2023

As part of our **Faith and Life inquiry** understanding, **The Arts can be used to raise awareness of significant events and issues**, as **curious researchers** we are **engaging** in the thinking moves **connection making**, **identifying new ideas** and **wondering** as we **read and view texts** from **different sources** to help us **find out** about **Archie Roach**, an **Australian singer** and **songwriter**. As part of **building our understanding** using **different sources** will provide us with an **opportunity to consider different viewpoints** and **perspectives**. We will also have an opportunity to **find out** about his life as an **Aboriginal activist** through reading his book and listening to his song, 'Took the Children Away.' As part of **sorting out** our thinking we will be **building explanations** and **our interpretations** and will **organise the information** we gather by **documenting our discoveries** on a **collaborative data chart**.

As **writers**, as part of **sorting out** our thinking, after our **workshops with Michael Wagner**, we are **exploring** a variety of 'seeds' for our Writer's Notebooks. We are engaging in the thinking moves **perspective taking** and **identifying new ideas** as we **shape our ideas into purposes for writing**. In particular we are **empowering ourselves** to **use strategies** to help us **zoom in on our writing** at **Sentence Level**. As **reflective thinkers** we will use the following questions, from our writing consultant, Deb Sukarna, to strategically assist us:

- How does my word choice make my reader feel?
- Have I checked sentence beginnings?
- How could I rewrite my sentences to make them more interesting and varied?
- Have I used descriptive language?

As part of **Number and Algebra, as mathematicians**, we are **engaging in learning opportunities** related to **solving problems** involving **division**. As **curious mathematicians** we are **investigating efficient mental and written strategies** and **interpreting and solving everyday division problems** related to some of our authentic learning experiences. As **flexible thinkers** we are **solving division problems mentally**, such as 72 divided by 9, by thinking, ‘How many nines make 72?’ Some of us will be engaging in learning opportunities where we will be **explaining the effect of dividing a decimal by 10, 100, 1000 ...** in terms of **place value**. Some of us are engaging in the **interactive game** on Toy Theatre – **Missing Divisor** where we have an opportunity to determine the missing number in a division equation as this will assist us to develop connections between multiplication and division and our fluency with our number facts. <https://toytheater.com/missing-divisor/> As part of **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

Tuesday 5th September

Mother Teresa Feast Day

Mass 9.15am

Pizza Lunch

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

Melbourne Cup- Public holiday

No school for children this day

Wednesday 22nd November

No school for children this day

Foundation 2024 Orientation session 1

Thursday 30th November

Foundation 2024 Orientation session 2

Friday 8th December

Kolbe Orientation Day Year 7 2024

School Closure Day – planning 2024

No school for children this day

Thursday 14th December

No school for children this day

Year 5/6 Bowling Excursion

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