



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

11th September 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,

Our Faith and Life inquiry focus through the lens of 'The Arts' this term, has enabled learners to explore the ways in which individuals and /or communities express their identity, make sense of the world and tell their story. Throughout this Faith and Life inquiry we have seen learners engage with a number of artists across a range of fields to exploring the ways in which they express their stories. This week learners would like to provide the opportunity to share their learning with their families through an open morning 8.30 – 9.30am and open afternoon 2.30 – 3.30 on Wednesday 13th. This celebration of learning reflects our compelling questions: How do we tell our stories? How do the arts connect communities? How can I express my identity?

Identity and community are important concepts that have driven the current inquiry. These concepts are also an important element of the current MACSSIS surveys. Each family received an invitation and code to access the annual Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS) survey for 2023. Each family is asked to take the time to complete the survey. This survey invites families to reflect on the school's strengths and areas for improvement. It reflects survey participants thinking about our school identity and community. It is important therefore that as many families as can complete the survey by this coming Friday September 15th.

As the term draws to a close my thanks is extended to the staff at Mother Teresa who continue to be totally committed to this learning community. A reminder that our end of term is Friday 15th at 1.30pm.

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 11th September

Welcome Kath Murdoch –Inquiry Planning

Tuesday 12th September

Experience Music Soiree

Book Swap for Indigenous Literacy Foundation (all week during lunch time)

Professional learning – Planning

Wednesday 13th September

Open morning 8.-30- 9.30, 2.30 – 3.30

Professional Learning – Faith & Life Inquiry

Thursday 14th September

Friday 15th September

Term 3 ends 1.30pm

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)

All families have received a personal email letter regarding MACSSIS - school improvement surveys. This email contained 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. If you did not receive your email, please check your spam email folder or contact reception.

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

Term fee accounts

Payment is now overdue. Please attend to your account to save follow ups from administration staff.

School Closure Days Term 4

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

Mini Vinnies News

Indigenous Literacy Foundation – Busking for Change and Second-Hand Book Sale: Books Needed!

We are supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation in their work to provide remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have access to high quality books.

We are taking part in ‘Busking for Change’ by learning a song to ‘busk’ for our learning community. **Tomorrow our singing group will be busking our song at 3:15pm** at the car park gate and again down at the **Basketball court on Wednesday.**



We will begin selling books during lunchtime tomorrow for a donation, as well as loom bands made by the Mini Vinnies team.

If you would like to support our action please scan the QR code or go to the link, <https://buskingforchange.ilf.org.au/mother-teresa-catholic-primary-school>



Many thanks,
The Mini Vinnies Team

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

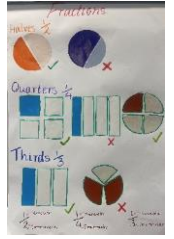
What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

“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

“The changing environment offers an incredible opportunity for inquiry. But why limit that inquiry into one stand alone unit when, in fact, the opportunity to learn about, notice, anticipate, observe, and record change is available to us every single day? Inquiring into the environment is SO much better as an ongoing experience”. (Kath Murdoch, 2018)

As **mathematicians**, some of us are **tuning in** and **finding out** about the mathematical concept of fractions. We will be **finding out** how a fraction is an equal part of a whole, recognising that a half means one of two equal parts and **identifying** common uses of fractions including; halves, quarters and eighths.



Some of us have also been inquiring into **telling the time**. Some of us have been **tuning in** and **finding out** the language of time including, first, then, last; morning afternoon and night; hour, minute, o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to. During the holidays children are encouraged to find opportunities to practise telling the time to the hour, half hour and quarter to and quarter past the hour. Children are also asked to continue practising their counting focuses. Children can also access a number of mathematical thinking opportunities through the website **Toy Theater** www.toytheater.com

As **readers**, we will continue to explore a range of **fiction and non-fiction texts**, including those through our Faith and Life inquiry. Some of us will continue **to find out** and **sort out** 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 continue to explore and strengthen.

As **writers**, we continue to engage in **weekly conferences** with our teachers. During these conferences we **engage in dialogue** with the teachers on different **strategies we can use to improve our writing**. We then use these strategies when we are engaging in independent writing. Some of us have been using the strategy of using our 5 senses to support our writing as a modelled to us by author Michael Wagner. Others have been thinking about ways we can strengthen the message of our writing including discovering how to reread our writing to check the message and **adding on ideas**. **Children** are encouraged to collect seeds for writing during the holiday break.

As part of Faith and Life inquiry we have been hearing stories from families. As **thinkers**, we have taken a moment to pause and **reflect** on our Faith and Life inquiry so far. We will consider the new ideas and discoveries we have identified as we sort out our thinking about our compelling question, **How do we tell our stories? What are some of the ways we can tell stories?** We are **taking action** with our discoveries by planning a story to share through the lens of an artist. In preparation for our thinking we have considered;

What story do I want to share?

How do I want to tell the story? (which artform?)

What things might help me tell the story?

We look forward to sharing our stories and process of learning in Faith and Life inquiry with you on **Wednesday 13th September** between **9:00-10:00** and **2:30-3:30**.

Holiday Learning

Some children will continue to practise their **Oxford Sight Words** over the holidays. We ask that families please do not mark the sight words or swap the words between the rings, as Learning Space Teachers will check these during the first week of term. **Children are expected to learn all 307 Sight words by the end of Term 3.**



PMeCollection:

During the holidays it is expected that children engage in reading daily using their PMeCollection bookshelf. They can use PMeCollection to record themselves reading and add sight words to their word lists.

Story Box Library

Another literacy resource, purchased by the school, is a subscription to Story Box Library. As a reader and inquirer your child has an opportunity to select, navigate, read, and view texts of their choice and interest from the Storyteller, Short film or Beyond the Story sections in Story Box Library. It can be accessed via;

Username: MotherTeresaPS

Password: motherteresa

Bridging Centre

Year 3– 4 Learning Spaces

As thinkers, the children will have the opportunity to reflect on their new thinking about the Arts and our compelling question ‘**How do arts connect communities?**’ Through using a variety of means such as reflection tools and different thinking routines, the children will reflect on what they have discovered and how their thinking has changed. Children will also have the opportunity to use different art materials to show their thinking. Some children will have the opportunity to engage in an independent inquiry stemming from a wondering or topic they still have about the inquiry.

Through a mathematical lens, children have had the time and opportunity to explore shapes and are now extending this learning into transformation of shapes and angles. Through use of different materials such as icypole sticks and tooth picks, children have been making different sized angles and some will be finding out about protractors and how they can help measure an angle. Other learners have been finding out about how a shape can rotate, reflect or slide to become a new shape. We will continue to explore these as well.

As writers, children have been publishing a range of texts for their Writers Gifts and many have challenged themselves by creating different text types such as descriptions and persuasive texts. Over the coming holidays, please collect different objects that can become ‘seeds’ for writing. These can include tickets, photos, leaves or random objects from their adventures.

The children will be encouraged to keep practising their Goodies and Baddies or engaging in different problem solving tasks over the holidays. The children will not be able to borrow books over the holidays so it is a great opportunity to use newspapers, websites or books from home to read.

We hope you have a great final week of term 3 and can’t wait to see you back in Term 4!

Leadership Centre

Year 5–6 Learning Spaces

For the most part, ‘going further’ is about giving individuals and small groups opportunity to continue to inquire into aspects that are meaningful or interesting to them. This element is about really personalising the inquiry. Kath Murdoch 2023

As part of the Going Further phase of our Faith and Life inquiry, **How can I express my identity?** we have been engaging in creating various artworks that are meaningful to us and that reflect an issue or passion of interest to us. This **Wednesday 13th September** we are **inviting you** to our **Open Morning and Afternoon to view our artworks** and the **learning** we have **engaged** in during our **Faith and Life inquiry**, This will take place between **9:00-10:00** and **2:30-3:30**. We are looking forward to sharing our learning with you and engaging in dialogue about our artworks.

In the first week back, in Term 4, as inquirers and as part of our **Faith and Life inquiry**, we will be **engaging** in an **excursion to Healesville Sanctuary**. As part of this **learning experience**, we will be **engaging** in a variety of **learning opportunities** to find out about the **structural features and adaptations of Australian animals** and how the **growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of the environment**. At Healesville Sanctuary we will also **engage in learning with our friend and Wurundjeri elder, Murrundindi**, who will share local Dreaming Stories about Australian animals and also provide us with time and opportunity to deepen our understanding about respect for Country and how the physical environment impacts



animals and the entire ecosystem.

Excursion to Healesville Sanctuary:

Monday 2nd October – Year 5/6 4 Mrs Brooks & some of Year 5/6 2 Miss Mac

Children need to be at school at 7:45am as the bus will be leaving MTPS at 8:00am.

Wednesday 4th October – Year 5/6 1 Mr Osborne & Year 5/6 3 Miss Follacchio

Children need to be at school at 7:45am as the bus will be leaving MTPS at 8:00am.

Friday 6th October – Year 5/6 5 Mrs Sunnadeniya & some of Year 5/6 2 Miss Mac

Children need to be at school at 7:45am as the bus will be leaving MTPS at 8:00am.

As part of our **Home Learning** we will be given a **map of Healesville Sanctuary**. This is an **opportunity** for us to **view** the **different tracks** and the **location** of particular **animals**, the **fighting extinction species** and the **times of Keeper Talks**. As **readers and inquirers** we are encouraged to use the following **link** to **discover** the various **trails at Healesville Sanctuary** and to **find out** about the **different animals** and their **habitats**.

<https://www.zoo.org.au/healesville/habitats/>

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

Tuesday 7th November

No school for children this day

Melbourne Cup- Public holiday

Wednesday 15th November

No school for children this day

Wednesday 22nd November

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

Thursday 14th December

No school for children this day

Friday 15th December

Year 5/6 Bowling Excursion

Monday 18th December

Term 4 ends for children at 1.30pm

Tuesday 19th December

Staff professional learning / planning

Wednesday 20 December

Staff professional learning/ planning

Staff end of year

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