



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

4th December 2023,

*"In loving one another through our works,
we bring an increase of grace and a growth in divine love." - Mother Teresa*

To All In Our Learning Community,

The season of Advent has begun within the Catholic tradition. This season is a time of waiting, preparing and of hope celebrated through the birth of Jesus- the Messiah.



Mary a member of the anawim, the poor in spirit or faithful remnant, was faithfully waiting for the promised one when she was unexpectedly invited to be the Mother of Jesus. What might this have been like for Mary? Luke's gospel tells us despite the fear and confusion associated with this invitation Mary accepts the invitation to be the Mother of Jesus- 'I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said'. During her pregnancy what might her fears and hopes have been? What did she wonder about, and hope for her child? What did she hope for herself and her betrothed Joseph? Pope Francis suggests that there was a waiting in loving anticipation for the birth of Jesus.

The birth of Jesus took place in the humblest of locations, a stable. This new family was greeted by travelling shepherds and those from across the lands coming to congratulate and see this promised child. Not long after this we are told in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 2: 13 – 23) that the young family had to flee to Egypt for safety to protect their new born baby. What might this have been like for this young family?



Jesus' birth offered hope for the faithful remnant who believed in the promise of God that a Messiah would be sent. Jesus' birth offers hope today in our fragile world. Women and men in war-torn places cradle their babies in the hope that they will bring hope for the future. I was struck by this contemporary image of a woman in Gaza. I note a donkey at the side and a sign indicating 650m to the Pyramids in Egypt – are they fleeing to Egypt? On the lap of the mother is a piece of bread – UN relief. Through a religious lens I see the person of Mary cradling her child Jesus. The bread symbolises the bread of life the gift received through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to be celebrated each Easter. This Eucharistic image reminds us there is hope. As we journey through Advent how might we remain hopeful? What are we invited to do to bring about peace in our families, learning community and wider world? How might the hope of Christmas be brought to reality in our lives?

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 4th December

Year 3/4 inquiry group to visit IMAX

Tuesday 5th December

Professional Learning – School Organisation

Wednesday 6th December

Foundation – Year 2 CERES Excursion Learning Spaces 6, 8 & 9

Professional Learning – School Organisation

Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm – Our Lady's Church

Thursday 7th December

Friday 8th December

Planning 2024 -School Closure Day

No School for children

Acting Principal Appointment

Mrs Amy Leahy has been appointed the Acting Principal of Mother Teresa School while the process of appointing a principal takes. Congratulations to Amy on this appointment. Further updates regarding the process of principal appointment will be provided in Term 1, 2024.

Faith and Life Inquiry Evaluation and Input

This Friday we will be working with our inquiry consultant Kath Murdoch to plan Faith and Life inquiry journeys for 2024. The children will be sharing their ideas and questions with us but we would also love to hear from you, the parent community. Please take a moment to respond to the following:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScripAHdggKMTzO1MQw57-t49wJO7FvtLHfeEzyzdviDTrF_w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Staff Shortage

Schools across all sectors of education are facing staff shortages. Unfortunately Mother Teresa School like other schools in the area has experienced shortages throughout the 2023 school year. We are currently working to cover classes and the provision of specialist programs. Updates will be provided as the staff for 2024 is finalised.

Year 6 Farewell Mass & Presentations

Our Year 6 farewell Mass will take place this Wednesday 6th December 7pm at Our Lady's Parish Church. We look forward to celebrating this important occasions with our Year 6 children and their families.

End of Year Whole School Mass

Our end of year whole school Mass will take place on **Wednesday 13th December at 12.30pm** at Mother Teresa Primary School. All welcome.

At our End of Year Whole School Mass we will take the opportunity to farewell Mr Reed. Light refreshments will follow the Mass. For catering purpose please indicate if you are attending via the Audri App – “RSVP for light refreshments”.

School Closure ~ Friday 8th December

Staff will be involved in planning for 2024 with Kath Murdoch on Friday 8th December. **There will be no school for children on this day.**

2024 Books Packs, Fees and Levies

Book Packs

A flier regarding Book Packs for 2024 has been distributed. Please refer to our webpage if you have misplaced yours. <https://www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-information/fees-levies/> The take-home book boxes are no longer available through the Backpack and will need to be purchased through the school. They are \$10.

School Fees & Levies 2024

The family school fee in 2024 is \$1,722 (concession applies to eligible families). The levy per student will remain at \$ 312

Please note the student levy is payable by Friday 9th February, 2024. Prepayments of this levy can be made prior to this date.

Year 5/ 6 Camp 2024

The Year 5/ 6 camp will take place at Lady Northcote Camp Bacchus Marsh in Term 2 Wednesday 15th May – Friday 17th May. The cost of the camp is \$454.

Reports 2023

The Semester two reports for 2024 will be uploaded next Thursday 14th December. Please note that reports cannot be accessed on mobile phones they are accessible via laptop or desktop computer.

Mini Vinnies News

As a Catholic Dialogue School Mini Vinnies is taking action and offering hospitality to the other by supporting the Craigieburn St. Vincent de Paul Chapter's Christmas Appeal. We are inviting our learning community to donate non-perishable items including; tins of tuna, tins of tomato, long life milk, pasta and rice. We are also looking for Christmas items such as; mince pies, biscuits, soft drinks and lollies, as well as toiletries including toilet paper, soap, moisturizer and deodorant. You are welcome to choose an item from our Christmas tree to take home with an item on it and leave donations under the tree. Thank you to those who have donated. We will be collecting items until **December 11th 2023**.

Parents & Friends News

The Parents and Friends group supports the building of our learning community through numerous social and fundraising events.

Christmas Raffle

Our Parents and Friends are organising a Christmas Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each and will be forwarded tomorrow. Prizes are now on display and include:

- A Pro Scooter & Helmet
- Instant photo kit
- Derwent pencil set
- Lego classic pack
- Vivofit Jr. 3 Kids fitness tracker

Term 4 Zooper Dooper Fridays

Thanks to all those who assisted with our Zooper Dooper Fridays this term.

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 **mathematical thinkers**, many of us have been engaging in measurement. Within the focus, we have been unpacking direct and indirect comparisons to decide which is longer, heavier or holds more, and explain reasoning in everyday language. Some children have been **measuring** and **comparing** the **lengths, masses, and capacities of objects with a variety of resources such as blocks, rulers, counters and scales**.

As part of Faith and Life Inquiry, we have continued to extend their thinking by **looking closely** at the provocation of the **Christmas tree** in the open learning space. We have **considered** ways that we can be **hospitable** to others within our broader community. Each child has had the opportunity to pick an ornament, which has listed a different donation. All donations will be given to the Craigieburn Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul.

As **readers**, we are exploring a range of **fiction and non-fiction texts** with the connection to our Faith and Life inquiry topic *"What Lives Here?"* and continuing to develop a range of reading strategies to help us decode unknown words. As we listen to texts, we will have the opportunity to observe and name the reading behaviours that good readers use, such as pointing to words, **looking at the pictures**,

identifying initial sounds and **breaking up and chunking words**. Some of us will continue to identify sight words in the texts we are reading, whilst some of us will continue to **develop our comprehension** skills and strategies.

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.

Bridging Centre

Year 3– 4 Learning Spaces

'It is the beautiful task of advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope'. Pope Benedict XVI

As we have begun the season of Advent, we will be engaging in a range of learning opportunities for the remainder of the year in the Bridging Centre. To tune in we will act as **hermeneutical learners** by **interpreting text** and **symbols** and **seeing new layers of meaning** as we are **engaging** with an **artwork** by **Sieger Koder**. As **thinkers** we will **engage** in the **key thinking moves**, **describe**, **look closely**, **observing details**, **interpret** and **wonder**. Through **dialogue** with **others**, we will **share** our **inferences** and **interpretations** about what it has us **thinking** and **wondering** about, as well as the **connections** we make to the world and other texts. To **go further** with our **thinking**, we will **make connections** with **Luke's Gospel 1 26-38** and view the Gospel through a **new lens**.

To facilitate further **provocation** for our **thinking tuning** into **Advent** - we will **look closely** at the words - *story, season, joy, love, peace, hope, waiting, time, traditions, celebration, light*. We will use the **key thinking moves** **activating prior knowledge** and **wondering** as we **consider** our **first thinking** about Advent. As **hermeneutical thinkers**, we will **document** our **thinking independently** then **contribute** our **thinking** to our **peers** and **share** what we **know**. We will **consider** the **symbols** related to **Advent** and **illustrate** these as part of our first thinking.

As part of the finding out phase we will act as hermeneutical learners by **seeing new layers of meaning** through **engagement** with a **text** about the **meaning** of the **Advent Candles**. We will **revisit** our **illustrations** and **first thinking** related to the **candles** and **consider** what we think they mean and at what time they light up. As **readers** and **inquirers**, we will **identify new ideas** and **visualise** what we **think** the **text means** to **document** our **second thinking**.

In our **mathematical** learning will have begun to **investigate** the **concept** of **chance** and **probability**. As **thinkers** we will **explore** a range of everyday (and not so) events and **describe** the **chance** of them occurring using the language *impossible, unlikely, even chance, likely* and *certain*. To **go further** we will make **connections** to our **prior knowledge** around **fractions** to identify more **precise** methods for stating **probabilistic outcomes**.

Leadership Centre

Year 5– 6 Learning Spaces

If we consistently model, promote, live, reference, honour, and demand the dispositions of a learner and thinker; then students will develop the intellectual character that supports a lifetime of learning and thinking. Ron Ritchhart

As **curious and reflective thinkers**, as part of our **Faith and Life inquiry**, we are **exploring** some **commentaries** related to the season of Advent to provide an **opportunity** for us to **find out** and **develop deeper understanding and insight**. 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** and having an **openness to change and reinterpretation**. As **curious researchers**, as part of our **Faith and Life inquiry** we are continuing with our mini **personal inquiry** where we are **investigating** a question related to an area of interest that we want to explore further. We are **engaging** in the thinking moves **making connections**, and **identifying new ideas** as we **interpret** and **analyse the information** we gather through **reading**

and **viewing texts**. As part of **sorting out** we are documenting the **changes in our thinking** on a **Lotus Diagram**.

This year within Year 5/6 some of us have had an opportunity to be a **Peer Mediator**, which has provided us with **time and opportunity** to be **effective listeners**, **assertive** and **demonstrate empathy** as we **resolved low level issues**, on yard, during lunch times. As part of **giving and receiving feedback**, as **reflective thinkers**, we will have an **opportunity to reflect on our peer Mediator role** by completing a survey which has been formulated by Miss Canny.

This **Wednesday 6th December** is our **Year 6 Farewell Mass**. This will take place at **Our Lady's Parish Church at 7pm**. On this night we will engage in a **Mass of Thanksgiving** to **celebrate the learning opportunities we have engaged in throughout the year**, **our reflections on what we have learned**, **how we learned**, **wonderings we explored**, **authentic learning experiences we engaged in**, **investigations we researched** and some of the **challenges** and **growth** we **experienced as learners**. A number of awards will be presented at the end of Mass.



Next week, on **Thursday 14th December**, to **celebrate their year of learning**, and to **farewell their Year 6 peers**, all **Year 5/6 children** will be travelling by

bus to Wyncity, Keon Park where they will engage in two games of Tenpin bowling. Children have already selected their bowling teams. On our return to school we will enjoy a Pizza Lunch. After lunch our Year 6 children will be presented with their Graduation Bear and have an opportunity to collect signatures. **We wish our Year 6s all the best as they continue their journey of learning.**



Term Four Dates 2023

Wednesday 6th December
Friday 8th December

Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm – Our Lady's Church
School Closure Day - planning 2024

No school for children this day

Sunday 10th December
Wednesday 13th December
Thursday 14th December
Friday 15th December
Sunday 17th December
Monday 18th December
Tuesday 19th December
Wednesday 20 December
Sunday 24th December
Monday 25th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Whole school end of year Mass 12.30pm – Mother Teresa School

Year 5/6 Bowling Excursion

Term 4 ends for children at 1.30pm

3rd Sunday of Advent

Staff professional learning / planning

Staff professional learning/ planning

Staff end of year

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Day

Term One Dates 2024

Monday 29th January

Staff return

Tuesday 30th January

Children in Year 1, 3 & 5 attend school

Wednesday 31st January

Children in Year 2, 4 & 6 attend school

Thursday 1st February

Foundation children begin school

All children at school

Wednesday 7th February

Foundation children rest day

Wednesday 14th February

Foundation children rest day

Ash Wednesday Mass

Friday 23rd February

School Closure Day

No school for children this day

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th March

Reconciliation Sign Up Weekend

Thursday 14th March

Reconciliation Celebration 7pm Our Lady's Church

Tuesday 26th March

Term One ends 3.30pm

Wednesday 27th March

Professional Learning Day – staff day

Thursday 28th March

Holy Thursday

Monday 15th April

Term Two begins 8.50am

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