



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

Monday March 25th, 2024

"Never worry about numbers.

Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you."

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

Yesterday Christians around the world celebrated Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In Whole School Prayer today we listened to the account from Mark's gospel (11:1-11) and heard of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem as a king, with cries of 'Hosanna' and as Jesus entered the city. It is worth noting that Jesus enters unarmed in peace, riding a donkey to be welcomed by a hopeful crowd of people with hospitality, perhaps with the hope that he may set them free from living under the rule of the Romans. The hospitality shown to Jesus soon turned to hostility, with his arrest, trial and crucifixion that is remembered on Good Friday.



As a Recontextualising Catholic Dialogue School, we consider what these events might mean for us in today's context. From a global perspective in Australia's today, Palm Sunday has become not just a day of religious celebration but also a day of action for peace, where Christians and non-Christians alike, gather to walk in solidarity for the rights of refugees and those living today in places of war and occupation, much like how Jesus may have entered Jerusalem. The fighting that continues in places such as Gaza, Haiti and the Ukraine, see many people face hunger, homelessness, the death of family and disease. When faced with such images each day in the media, it sometimes feels as though our world has forgotten our own sense of humanity and peace. However there is always hope when we seek it. While fighting and hostility occur, there are those who actively work to bring hope to the vulnerable. Organisations and aid agencies such as Caritas, the UN and Free Gaza Circus seek to weave hope to the vulnerable amongst continued fighting. Images such as the one of children living in Gaza, suggest to us the power that hope can bring, even when we face the most impossible of situations.



This Holy Week, Catholics and Christians are invited to reflect between the paradox of Jesus' hopeful, triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the darkness and suffering of his death on the cross. While the events of Holy Week may be weaved with darkness, Christians are people of the resurrection, as Jesus ultimately triumphed over death. When we remember that Catholics are an Easter people, people of the Resurrection, I wonder where we will find hope? In our own moments of suffering and darkness, where might our own hope and joy be?

For those who will attend Easter services, may you experience the presence of God's love through the joy of resurrection. For all of our Learning Community, I wish that you have a peaceful Easter and enjoy time spent with family.

Kind regards and blessings,

Amy

This Week's Happenings

Monday 25th March

Welcome Literacy Consultant – Deb Sukarna
NAPLAN Catch-ups Final Day

Tuesday 26th March

Welcome Literacy Consultant – Deb Sukarna
Whole School Prayer at 3pm Outside
Term 1 concludes 3:30pm

Wednesday 27th March

Staff Professional Learning Day

Thursday 28th March

Holy Thursday
Staff Professional Learning Day (School Office Closed Today)

Friday 29th March

Good Friday – Public Holiday

End of Term

End of Term One ~ Tuesday 26th March

In consultation with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) the children at Mother Teresa PS will complete term one on Tuesday 26th March at 3.30pm. Staff will be engaged in Professional Learning for Term 2 on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March. Whole School Prayer will be at 3pm outside (weather permitting) Tuesday 26th March, with the raffle being drawn.

Term Two Date ~ Monday 15th April

Term 2 will begin on **Monday 15th April at 8.50am** We look forward to the safe return of all our children and families.

2025 Enrolments Open

We are now taking enrolments for Foundation in 2025. Families with siblings are encouraged to fill out an enrolment form from reception or by visiting the school website.

School Fees Now Due

Our family school fee for 2024 is \$ 1,722. This fee is broken into three accounts: Term One \$574, Term Two \$574 and Term 3 \$574. The Term One fee of \$574 is now overdue. If you have not finalised your account please do so this week.

Northern Region Resource Smart Schools Workshop

Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School successfully hosted the Northern Region Resource Smart School workshop for educators from nine primary and/or secondary schools and several attendees from CERES last week. As communicators our student sustainability leaders did a fantastic job describing and articulating the sustainable actions taking place within our school. Initiatives such as worm farming, maintaining an indigenous garden, use of our swale,



maintaining garden beds and various recycling projects. Our Sustainability learning opportunities are beneficial for the environment and provide valuable learning opportunities for all children. These projects not only promote sustainability but also teach important lessons about environmental stewardship and responsibility. We received amazing compliments on how well all our children were able to describe their

daily eco-actions in our school community. Keep up the great work in fostering a culture of sustainability and eco-consciousness! Thank you and well done!

Miss Bernadette



Year 5/6 Dodge Ball Gala Day

Well done to all children who participated in the 5/6 dodgeball Gala Day against Willmott Park PS. All children tried their best and showed great sportsmanship during the games. A huge congratulations to “The GOATS” for winning the tournament from MTPS with the quirky prize being the ‘Golden Wrench’ in relation to the ‘Dodgeball’ movie quote; “If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball,” said by character Patches Houlihan. Below is “The GOATS” pictured with their prize.



School Camp – Lady Northcote

A reminder that the Lady Northcote Camp will take place in Term 2. All children in Year 5/6 should now have returned all camp forms. The Camp Information evening will take place on Wednesday 17th of April, @ 7pm at Mother Teresa Primary School. All families are expected to attend.

Mini Vinnies News Caritas Project Compassion – Thank You!

Mini Vinnies would like to thank all those who participated and donated to Caritas Australia, during Lent and on Thursday as part of our Project Compassion Action Day. As a community we have raised over \$900.00. The action has enabled all children to inquire into the practice of giving alms as part of the Lenten tradition. A particular thank you to the Parents & Friends who organized the Easter eggs for the ‘Guess how many eggs in the jar’ competition. Winners of this and the colouring competition will be announced at Whole School Prayer tomorrow afternoon.

As a Catholic Dialogue School, the willingness to give reflects the Catholic Social Teaching of Preferential Option for the Poor. This teaching recognizes, “Caring for those who are less well-off is everyone’s responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to vulnerable and marginalised people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God’s eyes,” (caritas.org.au)

NAPLAN 2024

NAPLAN for children in Year 3 and Year 5 has now concluded. Thank you to everyone in the community who have supported the children and their flexibility which allowed the NAPLAN tests to run mostly smoothly! Thank you to the following staff for their support in the running of the test; Mrs. McNeil, Miss Mac, Mr Collins, Mrs Allen, Mr Saffaa, Mrs Markes, Miss Clara, Miss Randa, Miss De Maio, Miss Milner, Miss Follacchio, Mrs Brookes, Miss Canny and Miss Thomas.

Holidays and Screen Time

While the holidays are always a welcome break from the school routine, it is a timely to remind families about screen time. Screen time use via television, mobile devices, game consoles and computers can increase. Families are encouraged to schedule screen breaks where children engage in other activities. Families are also reminded about the importance of monitoring their children’s device usage, including where they may be utilising online chat functions. The [eSafety commissioner](#) has some excellent resources to support parents and carers around online safety.

School Refusal and School Absences

School Refusal has been identified as a growing issue across Victoria, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) have implemented a new policy in accordance with the Victorian State Government to address the issues of school refusal and growing student absences.

It is a legal expectation that children attend school. Regular attendance to school promotes and empowers collaboration, builds stronger relationships between children and teachers, provides routine and allows children to experience success in their learning. Absences from school are marked as

approved or unapproved. Approved absences include; medical appointments, illness, bereavement or family holidays that have been approved ahead of time by the principal. From Term 2, if an absence is marked as unapproved for example, truancy, unexplained absence where no reason is given or parent choice, families will receive a letter in writing.

We will continue to update families about the new policies through the newsletter. Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring your child or children regularly attend school.

Volunteering at Mother Teresa PS

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Parent Workshop last Monday. This workshop covered the opportunities and expectations for volunteering at Mother Teresa. We were also able to unpack the expectations for volunteers as part of the Child Safe Standards.

If you would like to be a parent volunteer there are sign-up sheets at the front office. We are creating a data base of parent volunteers for teachers to contact. This includes; helping in learning spaces, excursions or offering services as an expert for Faith and Life inquiries. Alternatively you can sign-up via the Google Form by the link [Volunteering At Mother Teresa](#)

Child Safe Standard #6 – Suitable Staff and Volunteers

This child safe standard refers to ensuring all people who work or volunteer to work with children in the school are supported to act in a child safe way. Volunteers will be supported through the Parent Helper workshop Monday 18th March at 2:30pm.

It is also a requirement that all people who volunteer in the school have **current** Working With Children's Checks (WWCC). We are required to keep a register of all those who volunteer. A reminder to please check that your WWCC is current. We will be in contact with those on our register of volunteers currently who need to update their registration. Volunteers are also required to sign Melbour

Parents & Friends News

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all families who have purchased and/or sold raffle tickets. Please ensure all raffle tickets are returned as the Easter Raffle will be drawn after Whole School Prayer.

Upcoming Events

The Parents & Friends have begun planning the following events to mark in your calendar;

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Friday 19th April after Whole School Prayer. Cash only.

Mother's Day Stall (May 7th) and Mother's Day Open Morning and Morning Tea (May 9th)

Please mark these events in your calendar. If you are able to assist with the organisation of these events please leave your name and details with reception.

Term One Dates 2024

*Tuesday 26th March
Wednesday 27th March
Thursday 28th March*

*Friday 29th March
Sunday 31st March*

*Term One ends for children 3:30pm
Professional Learning Day – Staff day
Holy Thursday
Professional Learning Day – Staff day
Good Friday
Easter Sunday*

Term Two Dates 2024

*Monday 15th April
Wednesday 17th April
Friday 19th April
Thursday 25th April
Monday 29th April
Tuesday 7th May*

*Thursday 9th May
Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th May
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May
Sunday 19th May
Thursday 23rd & 24th May
Wednesday June 5th
Monday 10th June
Sunday 16th June
Friday 28th June*

*Term Two begins 8.50am
Year 5/6 Lady Northcote Camp information night – Time TBC
School Tours 2025
ANZAC Day Public Holiday
School Tours 2025
Mother's Day Stall
First Eucharist Workshop – 7pm
Mother's Day Open Morning and Morning Tea
Year 5/6 Camp – Lady Northcote
First Eucharist Sign-up weekend
Pentecost Sunday
School Review
School Photo Day
King's Birthday Public Holiday
First Eucharist Celebration – Our Lady's Church 2pm
Term 2 Ends*

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