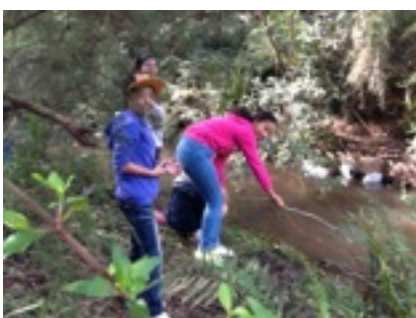

Super Seniors

Term 2 overview



Introduction

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2. We trust that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. We look forward to providing the students with many exciting learning experiences that will engage and extend their thinking this term. We have just enjoyed an amazing camp experience at Mt. Evelyn YMCA. The Mentors are so proud of the way the students challenged themselves, worked collaboratively in teams and supported one another. A special thank-you to Lidia Calleja, Carmelo Corallo, Gino Cipri, Leisa Manikhot and Kate Imms for their fantastic contributions to our Camps.

The students are showing great development of their personal learning skills through their use of goal setting, feedback, time management and by making connections to our Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. The mentors will continue to support the students in developing these effective work habits this term. Our students have participated in designing our Learning Zones and we look forward to these continuing to develop in exciting ways and contribute to our students learning.

This term for **home learning** our expectations are that students will commit to the following tasks:

- Independent reading nightly
- Mathematics 2-3 times a week
- Independent writing at least 2-3 times a week

Any other 'Must Do's' that haven't been completed during 'Independent learning time'. We understand that family life is so busy, that any extracurricular activities e.g exercise and sport and house chores are considered as home work as it teaches students life skills. Students can add these activities to their diaries.

To teach students independence and ready them for high school it is your child's responsibility to record home learning tasks in their diaries and have it signed by a mentor. Thank you for your co-operation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 8th May- 8:15am

Mothers Day Breakfast
Whole School Mass
Mothers Day Stall
Walk-a-thon after Mass

11th -15th May

Naplan Week
Wellbeing Week

Friday 15th May

9:15am Mass - Senior Community
followed by Sharing of Learning
Assembly

Friday 22nd May-

Student Free Day

Monday 7th June-

Queens Birthday Holiday

Friday 19th June-

9:15am Mass - Senior Community
followed by Sharing of Learning
Assembly

Friday 26th June-

Last day of term
1pm finish

Religious Education in Our Lives

Our Religious Education inquiry focuses on the idea that, 'Our Catholic History shapes our identity', as students consider the question 'How does the story of the Church connect to my story?'

Students will begin the term investigating the Easter story, the reactions of the disciples and the message of hope that the resurrection brings. Following this we will develop an understanding of the Catholic Church structure and how our Catholic history in Australia has influenced who we are today. As we consider the Inquiry through line that 'the events of the past influence the way communities form, live and make decisions for the present and future', we will develop an understanding of how the Hebrew and New Testaments form the history of Catholicism that influence us today.

Throughout the term students will continue to consider social justice principles and the way that these can influence their actions. Prayer will continue to be held each morning in the Senior Community as whole community or small group prayer. Students are encouraged to volunteer to lead prayer as part of their spiritual and religious development. Parents are warmly invited to join us for prayer each morning.



St Patrick Day Mass

Mathematics

During the first two weeks of Term Two in Math, the Senior Community has been focusing on Subtraction with an emphasis on developing efficient mental strategies and understanding its relationship to addition. The learning intentions that will be explored are as follows:

- To compare quantities and note the difference,
- To solve problems where the quantity is unknown
- To recognise and name the relationship between addition and subtraction

During the term we will also be exploring fractions, decimals and percentages, and making connections to real life contexts. We will also explore time and multiplying one and two digit numbers.

We have worked hard in the Senior Community Team to plan rich tasks based on relevant mathematical understandings to ensure that all students' needs are met so that Personalised Learning occurs. For those who visit the Learning Areas regularly, you may have noticed the current mathematical learning intentions and success criteria displayed. They not only provide a focus for each lesson, but also explicitly allow students to know what they are learning and how they will be successful in their learning.

English

Students often struggle with formulating ideas for a writing piece. Our Senior mentors have modelled how to write and keep a Writer's Notebook during term 1 and term 2 . Writers Notebooks not only allow children to express the way that they view and experience the world around them, but document their daily lives. This in turn provides an easy and informal way for children to start thinking about new topics and ideas. These notebooks are a great place to store favourite quotes, random facts, dreams, and ideas for the future. Our community has had an amazing first experience with their Writer's Notebook which has enabled most students to develop their writing skills and experiment with a number of genres such as biographies, persuasive texts, narratives, recounts, poems and so on. To support and deepen our students writing we encourage and value your support in helping your children to add to their Writer's Notebook at home (as part of their home learning) as a way then to use the world around them to write.

Inquiry

This term our inquiry is an exciting one, as it will have two focuses; a historical and art focus and these will also link in with our R.E inquiry. We will be visiting the National Gallery of Victoria and St Patricks Cathedral to inspire and launch into our learning. Part of this inquiry will also give our students the opportunity to “think like an artist” and collect ideas connected to their final art piece for the Art Show – “The Art of Possibility” in third term.

The key understanding focus is: ‘Communication empowers and brings about change.’
The lines of inquiry connecting and supporting student learning include:

- People and events of the past tell a story (History)
- Various Art forms can influence, express experiences, ideas, feelings and develop perspectives
- The Design process empowers us to be inspired, think creativity and communicate ideas

The students will have the opportunity to investigate various events in history and the impact they have had in the past, present and future. At the moment the investigation is focused around ANZAC day and this will lead into other historical events. Students will be thinking like ‘historians’ and practice historical inquiry skills such as:

- Organising information in chronological order
- Using historical terms
- Researching, analysing and using a range of sources for their Investigation
- Interpreting information from primary and secondary resources
- Developing perspectives from different points of view and sources
- Identifying causes and effects of events and their impact on a community

When inquiring into the arts the students will have the opportunity to develop skills to:

- Use appropriate arts language to discuss traditional and contemporary arts works
- Interpret and compare key features of artworks made in a range of times, places and cultures
- Discuss the purposes for which artworks are created in different historical and cultural contexts
- Make personal connections with and reflect upon art
- Use a design brief model to investigate, plan, design and evaluate
- Research to help develop creative ideas for my artwork
- Use an artist’s notebook to record inspirations for art ideas
- Create an art piece for the art show that reflects thinking and learning

If you have skills, expertise or a passion for art or history, we would love to have you in as our guest speaker or assist us in our learning. Come and have a chat to us if you can help.

Leadership

Stella Maris 2015 Social Justice Leaders

Helen Le, Jeanelle Uy, Lily Smead

Social Justice Team:

Alvie Chu
Isabella Chua
Oscar Moore
Simon Tran
Ileana Huang
Sheree Turner
Himani Nayak

The Social Justice team have been busy and have lots of activities planned for Stella Maris. The goal of our team is to help build the schools understanding of Social Justice and promote thinking and actions that help to create a just community, both local and global.

There are six Social Justice Principles at Stella Maris. They are: Solidarity, Human Dignity, Preferential Option for the Poor, Community and the Common Good, Rights and Responsibility and Stewardship of the Earth's Resources. These also link to our Gospel Values of empathy, commitment, respect, cooperation, integrity, enthusiasm, independence and creativity. Some of the actions we have organised have been the St Vincent de Paul donation campaign and Project Compassion supporting Caritas. Thank you for all your support.

This term we will be helping and working with the elderly in our local aged care home near our school. We will also be supporting other social justice organisations such as Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA) and care for a puppy who will hopefully become a working dog for the blind in our community.

Stella Maris 2015 Wellbeing Leaders –

Grace Colquhoun,
Robert Bell,
Javier
Rodrigues

Wellbeing Team:

Campbell Young
Erin Moore
Tayla Parker
Charlotte Manikhot
Auguste Petrauskas
Taniesha Mack
Grace Williams
Martin Milenkovski
Tanisha Arya

We're the Wellbeing team! The definition of Wellbeing is the state of being comfortable, healthy and happy. Our purpose is for the students to always feel happy, safe and to enjoy their time at school. We have some very exciting events coming up! We have 'Wellbeing Week,' which is a week focused on promoting wellbeing in our school during week 5, Term 2. We will be launching our 'Peer Mediators,' who will be in our playground to work with students across the Stella Maris community. We are receiving special training with Ms Gleeson and following a program so that we are skilled in supporting students in the playground. The Wellbeing group will be also working alongside the Sport group and Social Justice group. We will be working with students in the yard and in the community while supporting you throughout your journey at Stella Maris.

Stella Maris 2015 Sports Leaders - Molly Imms, James McVey, Johann Vicedor, Emmanuel Datario

Sport Leadership Team:

Coby Go
Harvey Petito
Isabella Corallo
Scarlett Brailsford
Rohnan Hewett
Joshua Calleja

Sports Leadership:

Here at Stella Maris we want to focus on 'Solidarity' and how we can incorporate it into our sport sessions. We want students to work together and help each other not because they have been asked to but because they care and 'want' to help. The Sports Leaders are here to teach and encourage the students to value fair play and sportsmanship.

We are also going to be leading activities like soccer and basketball clinics each week with different classes. There they will be able to learn basic soccer/basketball drills and develop their understanding of team-work and effective communication.

As some of you know, we run a couple of sessions of 'Bluearth' each week in the Senior community. The purpose of Bluearth is for kids who get out in games, like 'Dodgeball' or 'Knockout,' to be able to do something connected to either fitness or sport while they're waiting to come back in, thus enhancing participation. In addition, in our sessions we encourage feedback through our use of the Most Valuable Player award.

Each of the Student leaders have had the opportunity to attend the GRIP Leadership Conference. We learned about the qualities and behaviours that make good leaders. We are also using the resources to develop leadership within the students in our community.

Senior Space

At the end of term 1, the senior community started workshops based on the skills that the students need to develop in reading and writing. We guided the students as how to read a timetable and record their workshop times in their diaries. Please remind your children to check their diaries daily. As a community we have discussed what it means to be an independent learner and how to be responsible for their own learning. Students must fill out their learning plans daily and manage their time wisely. Then teachers can sign off students' learning plans according to which tasks they have completed. Students must complete a number of "Must Do tasks" with certain deadlines. Also, the students will be given the option to finish their "Can Do tasks."

The walls in our Senior community have been decorated to give the students extra resources to use. Using the rubrics posted on the wall, students can give feedback to themselves and each other. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Meet Our Newest Senior Vicki

