

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term One 2019

Creating a learning community, nurturing and integrating faith and life, in a spirit of openness.

Welcome to 2019! It has been our great pleasure to work with your children over the last two weeks. They have returned to us rested, enthusiastic and ready to learn.

This week, our focus has been our Middle Community Ways of Working to set us all up for a year of success.



This year, the Middle Community consists of:

 <p>Mrs Claire Naraghi (MCC) Middle Community Coach</p>	 <p>Mrs Mary Luatua (MCL)</p>	 <p>Ms Ashlea Timmins-Hughes (MCA)</p>	 <p>Ms Rachael Foley (MCF)</p>
 <p>Ms (Nhu Thuy) NT (MCT)</p>	 <p>Mrs Amanda Ferrarese (MCN)</p>	 <p>Mrs Elaine Donald Learning Support Officer</p>	 <p>Mrs Akuol Diing Learning Support Officer</p>
 <p>Mr Makur Amour Learning Support Officer</p>	<p>Please note, any teacher may be contacted using their initial and last name followed by @stellamaris.catholic.edu.au, e.g. cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au</p> <p>Our team looks forward to an exciting year of learning, growth and progress, not to mention Camp! We hope that we can journey together through your child's education here in Middle Community.</p> <p>If you would like to volunteer, make a time to talk about your student's learning or to simply give some feedback; please don't hesitate to email your student's teacher.</p>		

Please see links below to assist you in knowing more about the Growth Mindset that we are fostering here at Stella Maris. Here is a video on Growth Mindset that you can watch at home with your child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zrtHt3bBmQ>

Don't forget to sign up for the **Class Dojo** page to keep up with all the great characteristics your child is displaying in their learning!

Wellbeing Welcome!

Contact Julia
on:

jcascone@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au



Hello Everyone

My name is Julia Cascone and I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the team and community here at Stella Maris, Point Cook.

In 2009 I began my teaching career in Altona at St. Mary's. From the moment I stood up in front of a class my love for Students with Additional Needs and Student Wellbeing began to blossom. After 4 years, I moved to St. Andrew's in Werribee, looking for a new challenge.

After twelve months at St. Andrew's, my passion for Additional Needs and Wellbeing was still burning, so I applied for the MSSD Position (More Support for Students with Disability) which was funded by Catholic Education Melbourne within the school. This role involved working alongside teaching staff, leadership and parents to build the capacity of our community in their understanding of students with additional needs and the adjustments they require to be successful. As part of this role, I completed my Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Intervention through Melbourne University. This learning took me places I had never been before and I absolutely loved it! From here I stepped into the role of SWANs leader (Student Wellbeing and Additional Needs), where, for the past 5 years I had the privilege to journey with families and support them and their children at their point of need, academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

This year I have decided that it is time to head back to study (I'm addicted to learning!) and will be turning my Post Graduate Certificate into a Masters of Learning Intervention! Watch this space!

I have the honour and privilege to be working in the Middle Community this year as the Wellbeing Adjustments Coach and look forward to working and growing with you all.



It's Term 1, which means we need to wear hats during play time.
Please help your child remember theirs everyday.

Diary Dates

February 12th and 20th - Get To Know You Interviews (Book through PTO)

February 15th - Whole School Mass @ 9.15am

February 21st - Camp Information Session @ 3.30pm

February 22nd - School finishes @ 1.00pm

February 23rd - **STELLA MARIS FUN DAY**

February 27th - Camp Forms due

March 1st - Student Free Day

March 11th - Labour Day - no school

March 20th - 22nd - **MIDDLES CAMP**

March 29th - Middles Mass @ 9.15am

April 5th - Easter Liturgy @ 9.15am/ School finishes @ 1.00pm

Camp 2019

The **YMCA Lady Northcote Camp, 1273 Glenmore Rd, Glenmore, VIC, 3340** for the Middle Community will be:

Camp A - Wednesday 20th until Thursday 21st March for **MCC, MCF and MCH**

Camp B - Thursday 21st until Friday 22nd March for **MCT, MCA and MCL**

It is expected that all children will attend the camp.



There will be a **Camp Information Session/Meeting** on **Thursday 21st February** at **3.30pm** for **parents**.

Any parents who would like to consider assisting at Camp this year, please see Claire Naraghi in MCC. We have a limited number of places available for Camp but other opportunities for helping with activities will be available throughout the year. Interested parties must have a current **Working With Children Card**.

Wonder of Living

Empowering parents as the primary educators of their child in the area of sexuality education. It is our belief that important conversations around sexuality should be done in the safety of the home, and supported by the school, not the reverse. As part of our School Improvement Plan, and following positive feedback from parents last year, we will continue to offer the **'Wonder of Living' Family Enrichment Program** at Stella Maris. This will be an "opt in" opportunity for families.

We will hold two Parent and Child sessions for middle and senior community families on Wednesday 13th March, 2019. The purpose of the Parent and Child Session is to encourage good communication amongst families about important topics.

The cost is \$10 per family. This is payable on the night.

Information builds sequentially. Topics covered in the parent and child session include:

'A New Baby!' - Topics: development and birth of baby.
(suitable for **Year 3 and 4 students - 6pm-7pm**)

'And Now There's Me' - Topics: the human body; growing and changing; explanation of sexual intercourse and conception including some info about menstrual cycle; healthy choices; support networks; resilience (suitable for **Year 5 and 6 students - 7:15pm - 8:30pm**)

Celebrating our Footsteps in the Sand - Past, Present and Future

Stella Community! We are looking for past photos of the Point Cook community, the farm area on Innisfail before it became housing, schools and community. These photos will be used as a display in all our churches within the Laverton Parish during Catholic Education Week during 10th-17th March. Our parish theme is: "Celebrating our Footsteps in the Sand - Past, Present and Future"

If you have these images please forward these to ngarrasi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au by Friday March 1st

Reading Logs

This year, the Middle Community are introducing **Reading Logs**. Your child will already have a **Reading Log** and should have started to fill it in each day.

The purpose of these is to track home reading alongside what is done at school. Each day, students will write in how long they read for, during reading sessions, and then at home.

These logs need to be at school each day as we use them on a daily basis.

We hope that tracking their reading will inspire students to take an active role in their daily reading and motivate them to become lifelong readers.

We thank parents for their support with this.



Religious Education

This term, in Religion the students will be focusing on developing a learning culture around expectations for prayer, masses and liturgies. We will be deepening our learning about the Gospel Values and the connections between these and our Character Strengths.

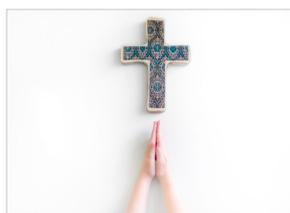
We will be using different modes of prayer to develop relationships with self, God and others. We will be encouraging the students to explore other ways of praying, both at home and at school. The students will be discussing how other faiths pray and share their beliefs.

During Easter time, students will be investigating the relationship between the story, the symbols and the rituals of Holy Week and Easter. They will be discussing the relationships that Jesus made and the impact they had. The students will be learning about Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. They will discuss that Lent is a time of reflection, and are encouraged to look within themselves with the purpose of making a difference. They will extend this to those around them.

To develop and strengthen our sense of community, we openly invite families to join us for morning prayer in our learning spaces each day at 8.50am. We also encourage families to actively participate during this time. The students would benefit from families sharing their thoughts and ideas or any symbols that connect to our learning, during prayer, as this will help their thinking grow. Feel free to join us for Middle Community Prayer in the multi-purpose space every Friday morning at 8.50am.



COMMITMENT



INTEGRITY



INDEPENDENCE



EMPATHY



COOPERATION



ENTHUSIASM



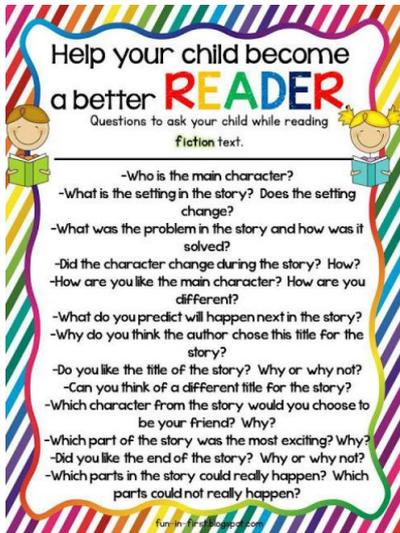
RESPECT



CREATIVITY

English

Reading



At Stella Maris, we aim for high expectations from all of our students. We deliver high quality lessons based on the Victorian Curriculum. This term, we will be focusing on building our reading stamina and developing the skills required to sustain reading. We will work to develop comprehension strategies such as reading for understanding, predicting and making connections. Students will be part of weekly reading groups and regular one-on-one conferences with their teacher.

The Middles Community expectation is that students read a minimum of 5 times each week at home. These sessions should be recorded in the student's Reading Logs and signed weekly. The impact of home reading should never be underestimated and parents are encouraged to get involved with questions about the text, listening or sharing the reading experience.

Writing

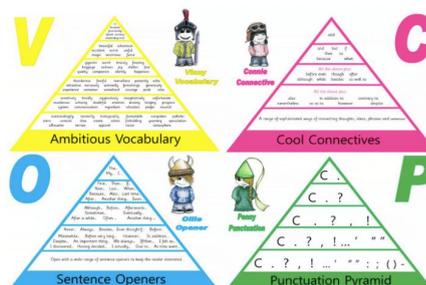
Writing: This term students will revisit the writing process as a whole and will focus on developing the skill of 'viewing self as a writer'. Students will continue to develop pieces of writing, through a range of genres, using their Writer's Notebook. Students will be taught the structures and language features of recounts and narratives this term. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be covered through our Writing Sessions.

Big Write will continue this year and the students are excited to begin. Students will be required to complete some 'Big Talk' at home and in school prior to Big Write. This is simply where students discuss their thinking and ideas of what they might like to write about. Remember, "If you can say it, you can write it!"

Year Three students will be looking at some sample NAPLAN questions and having the opportunity to discuss the layout and multi-choice format.

Students may talk about VCOP or THRASS at home.

V is for **Vocabulary**
C is for **Connectives**
O is for **Openers**
P is for **punctuation**



These are our consistent approaches to Literacy at Stella Maris and your child's teacher will be able to explain them further.

Maths

At the beginning of Term 1, students will be learning about **place value**; investigating the values that a digit holds in a number, and exploring expanded notation ($2576 = 2000 + 500 + 70 + 6$).

Next, students will be learning about **2D Shape & Symmetry**. In this unit, students will be focusing on identifying the properties of 2D shapes and categorising them based on their properties. Students will use visualisation to understand how the shape will look after being rotated. Students will investigate symmetry to understand what symmetry is and identify it in 2D shapes.

Students will make links with 2D shapes within the next unit on **Angles**. Students will be exploring different types of angles including acute, obtuse, right, straight and reflex angles.

In the next unit of **Time**, students will then explore the different formats and units of time. This will include reading analogue and digital clocks and exploring the relationship between hours, minutes and seconds.

In line with our camp, students will be learning about **Location and Direction**. When investigating maps, students will identify different features including legends, grids, compass points and coordinates. Students will locate and describe the positions of places and objects. They will use directional language to describe pathways from one place to another.

RESOURCES

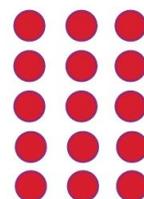
Students will be provided with login details for two amazing digital maths resources that are accessible at home. **Mathletics** tasks will be set fortnightly, aligned with the topics covered at school. We highly encourage students to complete tasks on these sites as part of their home learning.

Mathletics is a fantastic resource that students may continue to use at home, see Reading Log for student 'log-in' information.

<http://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student>

MFACTS is a program designed by Maths intervention teachers to support and develop each child at the point of need. It is a strategy based approach to learning multiplication that students are welcome to use at home.

Our aim is that students fully understand the concept of multiplication, rather than just rote learning times tables. Please help your child to see that multiplication is 'groups of' or 'rows of', such as 5 groups of 3 is 15. This can be shown as an array.



There are strategy videos that are available on MFACTS that provide clear explanations, examples and visuals of multiplication. <http://mfacts121.com/>

Inquiry

This term, our Inquiry Unit is focusing on two parts: **Developing our Learning Culture**, and **Game of Life**.

In **Developing our Learning Culture** students will explore how they learn best, effective teamwork and their role within the community. Students will investigate and practise using different thinking tools and resources to help develop themselves as lifelong learners. These concepts will be deepened throughout the year.

Within our **Game of Life** unit, students will be immersed in a range of prompts and activities that aim to allow them to gain deeper insight into their identities; about their roles within their communities and the wider society, extending to the cyber world. Students will learn different problem solving strategies to overcome challenges and maintain healthy relationships and lifestyles.

THE ZONES OF REGULATION[®]



ASCD

HABITS OF MIND

<p>Persisting</p> <p>I keep trying.</p>	<p>Managing Impulsivity</p> <p>I think before I act.</p>	<p>Listening with Understanding and Empathy</p> <p>I listen carefully to understand what someone is saying and feeling.</p>	<p>Thinking Flexibly</p> <p>Sometimes I try a different way.</p>	<p>Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision</p> <p>I choose my words carefully.</p>	<p>Gathering Data through All Senses</p> <p>I pay attention to the world around me.</p>	<p>Creating, Imagining and Innovating</p> <p>I like to use my imagination.</p>	<p>Responding with Wonderment and Awe</p> <p>I search for something amazing in everything I see.</p>
<p>Thinking About Your Thinking</p> <p>I'm aware of what I'm thinking.</p>	<p>Striving for Accuracy</p> <p>I try many ways to check my work.</p>	<p>Questioning and Problem Posing</p> <p>I ask thoughtful questions.</p>	<p>Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations</p> <p>I use what I have learned in new situations.</p>	<p>Taking Responsible Risks</p> <p>I take safe risks.</p>	<p>Finding Humor</p> <p>I try to laugh every day.</p>	<p>Thinking Interdependently</p> <p>I work well with others.</p>	<p>Remaining Open to Continuous Learning</p> <p>I love to learn.</p>