

# Senior Community Learning Newsletter

## Term 1

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

***"Teamwork makes the dream work!"***

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Stella Maris Senior Community 2019!

We have an exciting year planned ahead, full of learning, connectedness and growth.

Please join us in welcoming the new students and families to Stella Maris and the Senior Community:  
The Ng family, the Gaur family, the Megabiaw family, the Shyamala family and the Ramsamy family.

We encourage families to come into the space and join us for morning prayer by joining our circles or taking a seat.

The senior mentors will be encouraging students to approach school with a growth mindset. Students and their mentors are all learners. If we find something hard, it's because we can't do it yet.

Our mistakes are all opportunities for learning, and we can all grow and develop.

By working together we will be 'living' the Gospel Values of *'Independence, Empathy, Cooperation and Respect.'*

We look forward to the year ahead.  
With your support we know it is going to be fantastic!

# Welcome Student leaders of 2019

Tahlia Johnson and Isabella Di Natale - Community Partnership Leaders

Ethan Snyders and Alex Barnes - Sustainability Leaders

Freyja Ongkowardhana and Joshua Ascough - Wellbeing Leaders

Milana Trimbos and Orla O'Neil - Student Mentor Leaders

Gabrielle Kotsakis and Hayden Rodgers - Arts Leaders

Alexander Ericsson and Joanne Vivera - Sport Leaders

## Fun in the Sun

It's Term 1 and that means we need to wear a hat when outside.  
**Please help your child remember to bring their hat everyday.**



## Positive Psychology Prompts

1

### FEEDBACK

Discuss: "What feedback did you receive at school today?"

2

### WHAT WENT WELL?

Discuss: "What are three things that went well for you today? Why?"

3

### EVEN BETTER IF?

Discuss: "Even better if...so that..."

## Senior Mentors 2019

**[to be added Wednesday]**

**Mentors left to right: (include pic)**

**Learning Support Officers: (LSOs):** Our LSOs in the Senior Community are Cas and Erlina (pictured left to right). Cas and Erlina will be supporting students and mentors across the community. Both know the school well and are experienced at working with Senior Community students in a range of activities and workshops.



## Senior Community Teacher Emails

Richard Harding [SCH and team coach] rharding@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Leah Seychell [SCS] lseychell@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Michelle Reid [SCR] mreid@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Emily Kay [SCE] ekay@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Simone Norman [SCN] snorman@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Mia Marshall [SCM] mmarshall@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

## Calling all Volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer for events such as excursions and camp, please contact us.

If you'd like to make a time to talk about your child's learning or to simply give some feedback, please don't hesitate to email your child's teacher to make an appointment.

## Religious Education

This year our Parish theme is:

*'Celebrating our Footsteps in the sand - Past/present/future - our Catholic Identity story'*

We will be drawing on this throughout the year within our prayers, masses, liturgies, lessons and celebrations.

Throughout our Religious Education unit this term, the Senior Community will be exploring the rituals, routines and concepts which contribute to our Catholic Identity at Stella Maris. As we rediscover what it means to pray and meditate, we will make connections to our Stella Maris Gospel Values, finding real life examples of significant figures and leaders in the world who have made a positive impact and encompass these values and the Character Strengths.

Leading us into the Season of Lent, Students will be considering and deepening their understanding of what this time is about. We will also discuss how we can use this time to explore our relationships and make the right choices day to day, focusing on how we can explore the final steps of Jesus, making connections to examples of those who need our empathy and support in our world today.



## Wonder of Living

Wonder of Living is a resource that equips and empowers 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 is 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. Information at the sessions builds sequentially. The cost is \$10 per family. This is payable on the night. Sessions include:

### **'A New Baby!'**

Topics: development and birth of baby.

**Suitable for Year 3 and 4 students. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

### **'And Now There's Me'**

Topics: the human body; growing and changing; sexual intercourse and conception; basic information about the menstrual cycle; healthy choices, support networks and resilience

**Suitable for Year 5 and 6 students. 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Please complete this attendance form if you and your child will attend. <https://goo.gl/forms/jADzvnXQ1xcxuPVqI>**

# English

In English this term students will be using their Writer's Notebook to express their thoughts and opinions. The purpose of the Writer's Notebook is to encourage and motivate students in creative writing. Students will be expressing and recording their ideas in their Writer's Notebook, these ideas can then be further developed and used in future writing pieces.

We will also be exploring the structure and language features of recounts and narrative writing pieces. Through reading & viewing a range of texts students will explain how text structures assist in understanding a text. They will come to understand how language features, images and vocabulary influence the interpretation of a text.

Students will be learning more about VCOP and THRASS. Activities for these will help students to identify the resources they can use and develop the skills they need to improve their own writing.

If you'd like to know more about VCOP, ask your child to show you their community's VCOP wall and ask them how they use it in their writing.

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

We will be encouraging students to develop their reading stamina. Students will need to have a text readily available to read. They will complete book reviews throughout the year to inspire their peers to read different texts.

Our Big Write will be every second Thursday (green week) at 11:35am. Students will keep their work in a Big Write display folder, which they can refer back to and track their development throughout the year. We encourage students to share their work with you to celebrate their growth.

To help your child get the most out of their writing we encourage you discuss their Big Talk Stimulus as home learning with them in the days leading up to our Big Writes.

# Mathematics

In term 1, we will be exploring: **Number Awareness, Area and Perimeter,** and **Addition and Subtraction.**

During our Number Awareness unit, students will explore prime, composite, square and triangular numbers, as well as integers, decimals and negative numbers.

Students will be learning to recognise, represent and order numbers to at least hundreds of thousands. They will also create sequences and patterns of numbers using integers, fractions and decimals.

For Area and Perimeter, students will calculate the area and perimeter of different shapes and objects. There are some fun activities of creating garden beds with fencing that needs to be paid for, designing celebration cards using different areas and playing around with different combinations of shapes to see how area and perimeter operate together.

For our Addition and Subtraction unit, students will consolidate the many strategies that they already know and be challenged on new strategies or a new range of problems that use whole numbers, decimals and fractions. The important element here is to focus on the strategies used, so that students choose the most efficient ones. They will learn about relational thinking and the meaning of the equals sign (the equals sign means 'the same as' rather than 'work it out').

Maths Workshops will be up and running by week 4, with a focus this term on forward and backward number word sequence. Can students count forwards and backwards in large numbers, particularly when bridging hundreds and thousands (e.g. counting back from 2,105 to 2,095).



# Inquiry



During the first 4-5 weeks of Term 1, our inquiry unit will focus on creating a productive, efficient and self-directed learning culture. This involves taking the time to build expectations, routines and relationships throughout our community.

Following this, we will move into our second inquiry unit of the term: Think Global Act Local. Throughout this unit, students will explore and consider how they can take action and become more sustainable citizens of the world. They will be exposed to the work of geographers, learning to interpret data to generate how they and others can take steps to be more sustainable. Students will also explore and collect data surrounding the weather. They will take part in an excursion at Werribee Zoo linking STEM (Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology) to help create solution to problems within the environment.

## **Big Picture Inquiry**

During terms 1-3 our Senior students will be using their learning to create art pieces as a way of expressing themselves and connecting with our wider community. These works will be showcased at our Stella Maris Art Show in term 3.

# Cybersmart

With technology now a reality for teens, tweens and everything in-between, it's our responsibility to teach as well as guide our students to becoming cyber safe and cyber aware citizens. It is important that we continue to have an open dialogue as the data shows that "Even at this young age children are avid social media users. [Forty-five per cent of eight to 11 year olds use social networking sites](https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/health-and-community/enewsletter/kids-online-statistics). For the eight to 11 year olds we found that the top four sites were YouTube, Moshi Monsters, [Roblox] and Facebook, with the most popular activities being playing games, private messaging, posting comments and posting their own status updates. In other words, they 'like', they post, they share just the same as their older counterparts."

source: <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/health-and-community/enewsletter/kids-online-statistics>

The information below comes from our eSmart program to help you have a conversation around cybersafety with your child.



## ZIP IT.

**When you're online, always keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do!**

Remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. Don't share personal information online; don't share your full name, photos, addresses, school information, telephone number, places you like to spend time.

**Make sure you have set your privacy settings to restrict access to personal information.**

When you use chat rooms or instant messenger, use a nickname instead of your real name. To stop people accessing your online accounts, always keep your passwords secret and change them regularly.

## BLOCK IT.

**Think about blocking people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.**

Always delete emails from people you don't know, and don't open attachments from people you don't know. They might be nasty or contain a virus that can stop your computer working.

## FLAG IT.

**If you see anything that upsets you online or if someone asks to meet you, tell a parent or an adult you trust and they can help you.**

If you want to talk to someone else, you can call Childline on 0800 1111. If a friend you have made online asks to meet you in the offline world, talk to your parents or a trusted adult about it. You should never meet up with someone you have met online without an adult going with you because it is dangerous. If someone you know is being nasty to someone online, speak to a parent or trusted adult about it.

# 'Bring Your Own Device' Program

*We believe that many devices are able to service current teaching practices, meet every child's needs, or match every family's budget. Families may already own a device which could be utilised for learning at school.*

## Why Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at Stella Maris?

The school believes technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a world beyond our walls. We feel that access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network, and understanding how to safely and appropriately navigate and use them, are important in each student's education. This is especially relevant now with the introduction of Student Google Apps for Education (GAFE) accounts, as learning can be accessed online through any internet browser, on a variety of devices.

The goal of this BYOD program is to increase student access to digital tools and facilitate more access to technology-based information for all students. Many families have personally owned devices that can be used to help maximise access. When properly used, these technologies will promote educational excellence in the school by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Students who choose not to participate in the trial, will continue to access school-owned resources as they currently do.



## What is Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?

This simply means that families have the choice of sending privately owned devices to school with their children for use in learning at school.

The Stella Maris' BYOD program is available to middle and senior community students. Unlike other schools, we believe that many devices are able to service current teaching practices, meet every child's needs, or match every family's budget. Families may already own a device which could be utilised for learning at school. To be part of the program, devices must be able to join the school wifi and use the school proxy internet filtering settings. All devices will use the school's wireless network (**no 3G will be allowed**) as it provides a filtered access to educational appropriate sites on the internet.

**For more information, please contact Mrs Kay**



## Old Photos Collection

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 to [ngarrasi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ngarrasi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au) by Friday 1st March.