

# FOUNDATION COMMUNITY LEARNING NEWSLETTER



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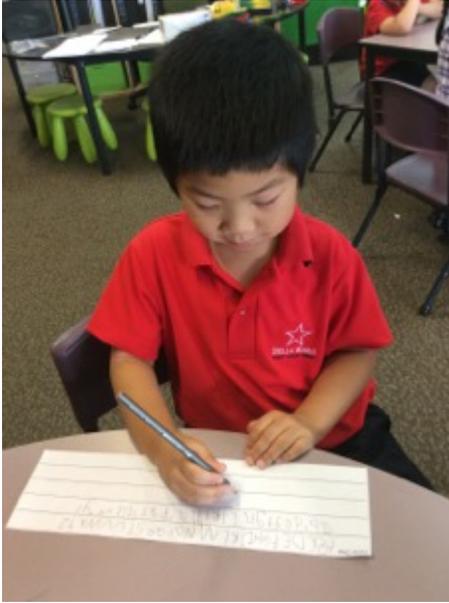
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## WELCOME TO FOUNDATION

What a start to the year! The Foundation students are settling into life at Stella and we look forward to building strong partnerships with you on their learning journey. We thank you for preparing them for this exciting time and for the opportunity to learn more about your child at our 'Get to Know you Interviews'. We look forward to watching them grow as learners and individuals at Stella Maris.

The following is an overview of the learning that will happen this term and some important information and notices.

## ENGLISH



We have begun the year with a heavy focus on teaching about the alphabet, including recognition of letters and their order. Alongside this, students will be learning to write using correct letter formation and pencil grip. Students will also be involved in activities that will help them develop their pre reading and early reading skills, including repeating rhymes, hearing sounds, identifying letters, learning to point to one word at a time and locating words through the use of poems, songs and stories.



We will work to develop the skills of a good speaker and listener through daily interactions with each other, focusing on eye contact, voice projection, confidence and questioning skills. Structures will be set up to enable students to participate in our literacy sessions effectively, work co-operatively in small groups, share resources and complete tasks independently. Above all, the children will be encouraged to develop a positive attitude when they attempt to read and write.

### THRASS- TEACHING HANDWRITING READING AND SPELLING SKILLS

THRASS is a tool for teaching learners about the letters, speech sounds and spelling choices of English. Our initial focus is teaching the alphabet, including recognition of letters and their order.

# MATHEMATICS

During Term 1 the focus for Mathematics learning in the Foundation Community will include number, data, time and pattern. There will be a strong focus throughout the term on developing students' sense of number. This includes orally counting forwards and backwards, initially in the ranges 1-10, 1-30 and beyond. We will be recording numbers and making collections of various quantities within these ranges. Developing these basic skills early, will lay the foundation for all mathematics learning to come.

We have started the year with a focus on counting. The children will develop skills such as pointing to each object as they count and match numerals, words and collections. As the term progresses the students will be involved in workshop style sessions that will help to target their specific needs in number.



We look forward to working with you to develop your child's learning in mathematics.



We will also be exploring how we can sort data and represent it in different ways. Students have been introduced to different ways of recording their thinking using diagrams, words and numbers.

We will then move into learning about time. Students will develop an understanding of language such as 'before' and 'after' and work towards sequencing their day from morning to night. At home, you could support this learning by practising reciting the days of the week and talking about months and seasons.

In finishing this term the students will begin learning about pattern by searching for and identifying patterns in our environment. They will use a variety of materials to copy, finish, create and extend patterns. We will again look at different ways of recording and develop language to explain mathematical thinking.

## INQUIRY

During this term each member of the Foundation Community will be exploring the unit 'building a culture of learning'. Through this unit they will reflect on how they are positive member of the community and what behaviours they exhibit to create a successful learning environment. We will continue to inquire into Identity, this means we will learning about ourselves and each other.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Our first unit explores building relationships with the Catholic Community. Through it we will focus on the ritual and special actions used during prayer time as well as the special symbols and objects used to set up a prayer space. We will engage in daily Meditation where we will learn how to be still and explore the significance of a Sacred Space. We will read and share the story of the Good Shepherd and reflect on people in our life who are caring and loving, like Jesus. We will also learn about the season of Easter, including Lent and Holy Week.

The students will be introduced to their class Gospel Bear. One of the bears will be invited to your home where you will have opportunities to share prayerful experiences together. Regardless of the religion you follow, we encourage you to include prayers, symbols and rituals from your own faith. When the bear returns back to school we will talk and share the experiences you had at home with the Bear.



Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

Our Foundation Community Prayer evening will be on Wednesday 15th May (Term 2, Week 4) from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Keep this night free, as it will be a wonderful time for parents and their children to experience prayer together.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## 8.50am Prayer Begins

Your school day begins with prayer at 8:50 each day and is an important part of our daily routine. Therefore, it is essential that children be at school on time ready to participate in prayer each day. Parents are encouraged to stay and pray with us.

## School Rules

Children have been learning the language of our school rules, what they are and what they mean. You will find them displayed in our learning spaces.

1. Follow Instructions
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
3. Speak appropriately
4. Listen to the speaker
5. Move Safely
6. Take care of all property

## Eating Time

We encourage all children to eat their brain food at around 10a.m. each day. It has become part of our morning routine to place our brain food on their table along with their water bottles. Community eating time begins at 11.00 – until 11.10a.m. At this time we encourage your child to eat their 'main food' and any yoghurts. We eat again at 1.30-1.40p.m. and children will possibly finish what is in their lunchbox.

If you recognise your child takes a long time to eat, perhaps you could practice this at home by encouraging them to eat without being distracted and to eat more quickly

## Teacher Planning

On Wednesday of week 9, Foundation Community teachers will analyse data results with our Literacy and Numeracy coaches. This information will then be used to assist us to plan ahead to meet the needs of our students.

## Wednesdays of Term 1

A reminder that Wednesdays will continue to be 'rest days' until week 10 of Term 1. Children will begin attending on Wednesdays from March 3rd.

## Foundation Community Learning Area

The Foundation community learning area is a shared learning space. This means that children sometimes work outside their learning area (classroom) and that evidence of learning may be displayed in this 'common learning space'. Take time to 'read' the walls and know what your child is learning about.

## Lost Property

A bright pink tub is kept in the Foundation Learning area to store lost property. Please check it if you notice your child has mislaid any items. To ensure hats, jumpers, drink bottles, lunch boxes and even shoes are returned to their rightful owner, please name all items clearly.

## Birthdays

If you would like to share something for your child's birthday, a small, individually wrapped treat such as a lollipop would be appropriate. Being mindful of other children's allergies we do not encourage sharing of chocolates or cakes.

## Learning Support

Doreen and Jane have been allocated as the Foundation Community Learning Support Officer. They will work closely with the teachers, assisting to provide the children with personalised learning.

## Tuckshop

Lunch order days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunches will be delivered in time for students to eat at 1:30pm. Please also provide your child with a morning snack on days they have a lunch order.

## Stationery Supplies

Thank you to those who have sent the requested supplies to school. We ask that you please bring in these stationery supplies to school if you have not already done so.

## Medical Issues

Please see your child's teacher if information regarding anaphylaxis, asthma or any other medical issue needs updating.

## Health Checks

The Primary School nurse will visit Stella Maris to administer free screening health checks for our Foundation students. Date to be advised

# TIMETABLE

Foundation students will have a one hour PE lesson with our PE teacher, Chris. For Arts lessons with Emma, children will need to have their art smock. This will remain at school. In ICT classes with Ms Beveridge children will learn computer and technology skills. Library bags have already been supplied to you. Thank you to all parents who have returned their library bags with the requested stationery supplies. Children will use these bags when borrowing from the library. Borrowing has begun for children who have had their library bags at school on Mondays for Term One. This may change for your child in Term 2. Library bags will need to be returned to school each week with the borrowed book inside it, in order to borrow a new book. You will be given another Blue Week/ Green Week Fridge Friend for Term 2.



# LITERACY OBSERVATION APPOINTMENTS

In order to gain a better understanding of where each Foundation student is in his or her learning and for us to plan personalised learning opportunities in the areas of English and Maths, we would like to observe and test students individually. To do this, we ask that parents book their child in for a 60-minute appointment with their child's learning area teacher on one of the following Wednesdays:

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>.

Parents are not required at these sessions, and children will not need to wear their school uniform. Bookings can be made through the PTO booking system. Thank you to those of you who have already booked in your child