

Term Two 2019

Junior Community Learning Newsletter

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

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back to term two!

We have had a very productive start to the term and thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to working with you and your family.

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



Dates for your diary

Wk 3 6th May- School Photos

10th May - Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy

Wk 7- 7th June -Student Free Day

Wk 8- 10th June- Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)

Wk 8- 14th June -Junior Community Mass

Wk 10- 28th June-End of Term 2 - 1pm finish

Brain Snacks & Nude Food

As part of our sustainability and stewardship of our environment and planet, we are encouraging the use of 'nude' food or, in other words, snacks without wrappers and lots of packaging.

Your children eat their Brain Snacks around 10 am every morning.



Attendance, holidays and lateness

As you may be aware, our attendance roll is taken after prayer each morning and it is a legal requirement for us to report attendance.

Children and parents can enter the building at **8:30 am** and school officially starts at **8:50 am**. Please ensure that your children are on time and ready to sit quietly for prayer by 8:50.

If you come later than this time, please sign in at the office. If you are going on holiday, please let Rose in the office know so that they can adjust the Attendance Roll. Thank you for your support in this matter, if you have any questions, please see your child's teacher or pop into the office for a chat.

Parents/guardians are responsible for contacting the school on that day of an expected absence to inform them and to provide an explanation for their absence. This must be done prior to 8:50am of the school day

This may be done via the school's preferred method: SkoolBag App
(email may be used if there are any issues) info@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

When submitting by SkoolBag: *Go to Home on the SkoolBag App, click on eForms, choose Absentee Form, fill in details and submit.*

Junior Community Teacher Emails

Michele Thring [JCM, TeamCoach]:

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Pat Torpy (JCT): ptorpy@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

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Karina Risk (JCR): krisk@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Alex Doran (JCA):

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Alison D'costa

(JCD): adcosta@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

TeRina Chase (JCC):

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Nadia Conway (JCK Tue/Wed/Th)

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Kate Macleod (JCK Mon/Fri)

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Olivia Nicola [Wellbeing Leader]:

onicola@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Susan [Reading Recovery]:

sgregory@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

BUILDING HOME & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS!

If you would like to volunteer, or 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.

*If you have a current **Working with Children Check**, you might like to consider helping out in the Junior Community:*

- *Preparing resources*
- *Reading with children*
- *Setting up displays*



Wellbeing Leader - Olivia Nicola

My role at Stella is to ensure that all students are given opportunities to become successful learners. Some students need support academically, others require social and emotional support while some students need careful considerations for health reasons. I work closely with the teachers and other coaches to ensure that suitable adjustments are made.

My working days have now changed - they are **Monday** to **Wednesday**.

Please do not hesitate to email me onicola@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au or pop into the Wellbeing Office next to the staff room area if needed.



Reading Recovery - Susan Gregoru

Welcome to the Junior Community. I am the Reading Recovery/Literacy Intervention Teacher for Year 1 and 2 students at Stella Maris. I am committed to developing students into confident and proficient readers and writers. An essential part of this close partnership is with parents and caregivers. My work includes intervention with individuals and small groups in phonics, word work and reading. I work every day and my email is sgregory@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au My office is in the Junior community.



Our Learning Support Officers are an integral and important part of the Junior Team - the work they do with our children is invaluable! Tanya Provis and Mel Portelli are both experienced and highly trained and they work with a wide range of children across the Junior Community.



Their work includes but is not limited to:

Maths intervention and workshops, EAL and Speech with individual and small groups of children to enhance their knowledge of the English language. They also work with emerging readers, Social Groups and Emotional and Behavioural intervention groups.

Religious Education

Throughout the term, the students will be reflecting on our world and our environment. The students will look at our Gospel Values and how they could display these values in their everyday lives to make our world and environment a better place..

The Key understanding students will be focusing on is:



‘Taking responsibility makes our world a better place’

Key Concepts is ‘Responsibility’

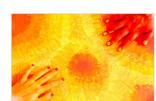
- What is it?
- What does it look like, sound like, feel like?
- How can we be responsible?
- How do our actions and behaviours affect our environment?
- How can people build a relationship with Gods creation?

As part of the Culture here at Stella Maris, we will continue to start our day with ‘Prayer’ at 8:50am. Parents you are most welcome to join our prayer time. Please sit with us, we invite you to share your thoughts as they are invaluable, and often extend our students thinking.

“the deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence”. Pope Francis

Through Biblical narratives of Genesis, scripture, Aboriginal creation stories and those of other faiths and cultures, we will unpack how these connect to what we are called to do. Students will also learn the beliefs and actions of *Saint Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis*, to explore the relationship we have with the earth. By building our knowledge and understanding of the relationship we have with Gods creation, we aim to strengthen and develop a greater sense of ‘responsibility’ to care for it, consider our interactions and behaviours, so that we ensure sustainability of our earth and all its resources, humans including.

To help your child in Religion encourage them to talk about how people can demonstrate the Gospel Values that connect to their everyday interactions in life, school, home and sport.



English

During Term One Juniors learnt and consolidated the skills of Read to Self and Read to Someone. These skills encourage independence and allow time for the children to practise the strategies taught during reading instruction. These skills will continue to be taught in Term 2.

Students are encouraged to keep 3-5 'good fit' books in their book boxes and ensure that they are changing these regularly. 'Good fit books' can be books borrowed from the school library, the public library or from home.

Reading

During Term 2, Juniors will be focussing on different reading strategies which will include different comprehension and decoding skills.

These include:

- *Using their THRASS knowledge to break up unknown words*
- *Going back and rereading the text when it doesn't make sense*
- *Asking questions to clarify understanding*

Writing

The skills that students are learning in writing throughout Term Two are linked to our Inquiry Unit 'Robot Buddies' and include learning how to create and write procedures for others to follow.



In addition to this we will continue to use VCOP to upskill our writing. We have introduced our VCOP characters - Vinnie Vocabulary, Connie Connective, Ollie Opener and Penny Punctuation as visual prompts in the learning spaces. Each character is an expert at their skill. Vinnie Vocabulary uses WOW Words to make his writing exciting and engaging to the reader.

Connie Connective uses fantastic connecting words to join two sentences together (Ask your children at home if they can share with you some connective words). Ollie Opener has a range of great sentence starters up his sleeve. He knows that we need to use a range of words to begin sentences so our writing remains interesting. Lastly, Penny Punctuation reminds us of the importance of using our capital letters and full stops to form complete sentences. We have been exploring all forms of punctuation but it is important to remind students of the basic sentence structures as we progress in our learning journey.

Big Write

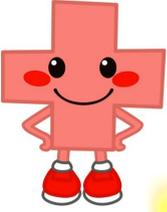
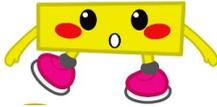
Our Big Writes will continue to be on Wednesday in Blue week. Each junior student keeps this work in their Big Write Display Folder. Students are encouraged to share this work with their parents before and after school.

To help your child in English please ensure you continue to discuss their 'talk home learning' with them prior to our fortnightly Big Writes. Talk home learning will go home on Friday afternoon in Green week.

A friendly reminder that the expectation for all Junior Students home learning is that they are reading their Take Home Book daily for ten minutes. By reading daily at home to an adult, students are consolidating the guided reading skills taught throughout the term and therefore improving their reading. Parents and guardians are encouraged to record the book read in their child's Take Home Reading Log which are checked weekly by the teacher.

Mathematics

In term two, we will be beginning our Mathematical learning by delving into Addition and following it with Subtraction. These two units will focus on explaining our working out and using efficient strategies, as these skills will improve our mental maths in the long run. We will then apply these concepts to the real world by exploring Australian Money. The next unit will be Length, where we will explore informal and formal units of measurement. Our next unit of work will focus on Conceptual Place Value, which is the importance of understanding how many units, tens, hundreds and thousands in a number. To round up our term we will have an introduction to Time concepts.

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Addition</p>  | <p>Subtraction</p>  | <p>Money</p>  |
| <p>Length</p>  | <p>Conceptual Place Value (CPV)</p>  | <p>Time</p>  |

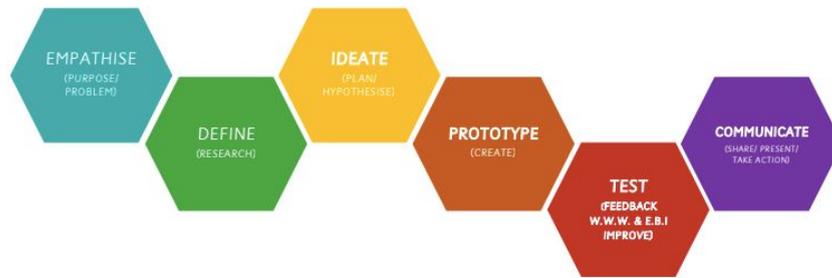
What you can do at home to support your child's learning:

Counting forward and backwards from different points helps your child to become fluent in counting and being comfortable with numbers. Counting collections, playing Snakes and Ladders, dice and card games reinforces the idea that Mathematics is fun and stimulating. Using or being exposed to coins and paper bills is also recommended. Reading and writing numbers can also be a fun way of being able to identify 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and how to say them too!

Inquiry

Key Understanding:

The design process encourages creative thinking to solve problems



Contributing Questions/Lines of Inquiry:

- What is the design process?
- How is the design process being used to create an idea?
- How can we use the design process to create a solution to a problem at our school

In term 2 the Junior Community will be investigating the **Design Process** and how it helps thinking and innovation. We will be using the Gospel Value of 'Creativity' to think outside the square and design a robot to solve a problem in our school. They will have the opportunity to have hands on experiences to test various materials which will help gain an understanding of materials and improvising and how they can be repurposed.

The unit will begin with an Scien-tastic Incursion
Thursday the 2nd of May 2019

