

# Senior Community Learning Newsletter

## Term 2

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

# ***“Teamwork makes the dream work!”***

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Can you believe it's Term 2 already?!*

The Senior team are pleased by the fantastic effort and attitude displayed by the senior students so far this year.

This was particularly evident during the camp to Mount Evelyn last week.

It was great to see so many students willing to have a go when faced with new, exciting (and sometimes scary) challenges.

Over the next several weeks, our students will be involved in NAPLAN testing (Week 4) and preparations for the Art Exhibition which will be held later this year.

We will also commence preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated in Term 3.

These preparations will begin with a family night (in Week 7) to deepen yours and your child's understanding of this sacrament.

Stay tuned for more details regarding this upcoming evening.

## Student leaders of 2019

We were sorry to say goodbye to Orla O'Neil at the end of Term One. Orla was a great student and was one of our student leaders for 2019. We wish her and her family well in their new adventure over in Western Australia.

We would therefore like to congratulate Samanyu Srivastava as the new Student Leader for 2019, in the Student Mentoring Group. Samanyu had the next highest number of votes for that leadership team. We will have a formal badge presentation during Senior Community Meeting, in the afternoon of Friday 10th May.

Tahlia Johnson and Isabella Di Natale - Community Partnership Leaders

Ethan Sneyders and Alex Barnes - Sustainability Leaders

Freyja Ongkowardhana and Joshua Ascough - Wellbeing Leaders

Milana Trimbos and **Samanyu Srivastava** - Student Mentor Leaders

Gabrielle Kotsakis and Hayden Rodgers - Arts Leaders

Alexander Ericsson and Joanne Vivera - Sport Leaders

## 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 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] mmmarshall@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Wellbeing: Sharon Hynes shynes@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

## **Calling all Volunteers!**

If you would like to volunteer for events or donate your expertise 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**

Throughout our Religious Education unit this term, the Senior Community will be exploring the history of religions around the world and their leaders. Students will explore the origin of Christianity in Australia and the impact on the Indigenous people, creating links to our Inquiry unit. Students will also research Saints within the Catholic church and their impact on the world. Through this, we will also explore the connections between Catholic faith and other faiths including their rituals, symbols and prominent figures, to further develop an understanding of the solidarity we share with all other human beings.



This term we will also be preparing our Year 6 students to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation that will take place early next term. To best support your child's faith journey, it is an expectation that all students receiving their Sacrament of Confirmation and at least one parent attend the Confirmation Family Night on the 4th of June. This will begin in the school hall at 7pm.

It is important that all students learn about and understand the meanings, symbols and rituals involved during confirmation, in order to share the journey with the sacramental students and provide support to their peers along the way. All Year 6 students will be attending a Confirmation Reflection Day on the 31st of May at Queen of Peace Parish Primary School with other Year 6 Students in the Laverton Parish.

# English

In English this term students will be exploring the structure and language features of persuasive, biographical and narrative texts. 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.

## Community Reading Stamina

All students are encouraged to continue to build on their reading stamina. Students are given this opportunity daily for 15 minutes after lunch. We need the students to have a text available that they can read continuously. This means that they can bring books from home or borrow from our school library.

Please make sure that you ask your child what book they are reading at school/home. We have a 'currently reading' display in our senior community to share and celebrate all the different books we are reading!

The MORE that you  
READ, the more things  
you will KNOW.  
The MORE that you  
Learn, the more places  
you'll GO.

Dr. Seuss

## Big Write

Our Big Write will continue to be every second Thursday (green week) at 11:35am. Students 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.

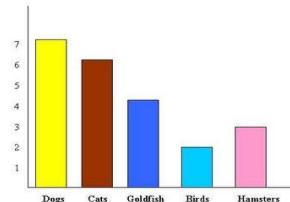
To help your child get the most out of their writing we encourage you discuss their Big Talk Stimulus as home learning with them in the days leading up to our Big Writes.

# Mathematics

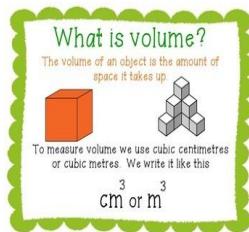
In Term 2 we will be exploring: Location and Direction, Chance and Data, Division and Multiplication, Volume and Capacity.

**Location:** Students will use a grid reference system to describe locations, while also describing routes using landmarks and directional language. They will then be introduced to the Cartesian coordinate system using all four quadrants. Building on their prior knowledge of compass directions students will be exposed to intermediate compass points to specify location or give directions (North East, North West etc.). Using their division skills the students will create scales to calculate the distance between two points on a map.

**Chance and Data:** Students will list outcomes of chance experiments involving equally likely outcomes and represent probabilities of those outcomes using fractions. They will also compare observed frequencies across experiments with expected frequencies. They will pose questions to collect categorical or numerical data through observations or surveys. Using that data they will construct, interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs.



**Multiplication and Division:** Students will identify and describe factors and multiples of whole numbers and use them to solve problems. Learning and using efficient mental and written strategies they will solve a range of multiplication and division problems. They will develop and extend their multiplication strategies to increase their recall of multiplication problems.



**Volume and Capacity:** Students will estimate, measure and compare mass using kilograms (along with an awareness of grams), using standard measuring instruments and read scales to the nearest graduation (e.g. tape measure, measuring jug, thermometer). They will read formal scales with increasing accuracy as well as converting measurements between metric units e.g. recognise that 1.25 litres is the same as  $1\frac{1}{4}$  litres.

## Inquiry



Following an exciting STEM excursion to Werribee Zoo, students now have the task to use Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology thinking to creatively solve and design solutions to problems that they identified while on their visit. What can the Cheetah play with? How can we update the playground? How can we help protect the Gorillas natural habitat? Students solutions to these problems and more will be on display at the Stella Art Exhibition, early in Term 4.



After the Zoo Solutions (Zoolutions??) and prototypes are completed, we will start our new inquiry topic: **The footprints of our society; past, present and future.** This is a history focused inquiry, examining important events and figures that have shaped our culture here in Australia. Important questions will be asked such as 'What are the events and who are the people that have helped shape Australia and the world? Who has had an impact on our society today? How can we impact society in the future? Our key concepts with this inquiry are Cause and Effect and Perspective Taking.

# Bring Your Own Device Program

The end of Term 1 saw many students bringing their devices in for the BYO Device program. During the last week of Term, we saw 59 students bringing their devices in. This means that if we combine our BYO devices with the school devices, we go from a ratio of 1:6 (1 device to every 6 students) to approx 1:2 (1 device to every 2 students).

This is fantastic! This means that students have access to digital tools and resources far beyond what we have had in the past. We are very excited about what the future of this program looks like! Here is some information from our 'Bring Your Own Device Program' information letter, that students can pick up from the school office.

***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.



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 as it provides a filtered access to educational appropriate sites on the internet.

**For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kay.**



## Senior Community Mt Evelyn Camp photos!



Cass going head first down the Giant Swing!!



Pull the rope, team. Get them to the top!



Let's go Ga Ga



Let's go home!