

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term Two 2019

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

Hi Middle Community,

Middle Community staff would like to warmly welcome you back to Term 2 of 2019.

We are looking forward to 10 weeks of fun filled learning that will include:

- NAPLAN (For Year 3 students)
- STEM excursion to 'Werribee Open Range Zoo'
- Mother's Day Breakfast and Fun Run
- Eucharist (For Year 4 students)



...and so much more besides!

At Stella Maris, our focus is on raising standards and meeting students at their own personal point of need. We aim to provide rich learning experiences that stimulate and engage our students, making them enthusiastic learners. We deliver our curriculum through a pedagogy of Positive Education, Gospel Values and a Growth Mindset. This enables students to get to know their own strengths and how they can utilise them to assist in their personal growth as learners and global citizens.

If you would like to volunteer, make a time to talk about your child's learning or to simply give some feedback; please don't hesitate to email your student's teacher.

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

Wellbeing
Adjustment
Coach

icascone@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Also available
on DOJO



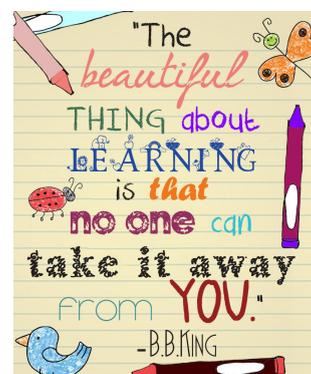
Wellbeing

Let me begin by saying a HUGE thank you to you all for making my Term 1 so positive and welcoming. It has been wonderful to be able to build relationships with our families and students and an absolute delight to celebrate their success in the last round of PSGs!

There will be lots of fun and exciting changes going on in the Middle Community this term with Intervention and extra support. We will be implementing a new Speech and Language Intervention Program, and adding in some Writing Workshops.

CHECK IT OUT!

Looking for some **cool**, **calm** and **crazy** fun in your home? Check out GoNoodle at www.gonoodle.com. It's a great way to incorporate movement and mindfulness in the home and at school! Show off your groovy moves or get some tips of how to bring mindfulness to your family. Lots of fun for everyone!



NAPLAN

In May, students nationwide, in Years 3 and 5 will complete four tests covering Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy between 14-16 May 2019.

Parents are encouraged to reassure their children through calm conversation and simple advice, including:

- These are not pass or fail tests
- Be positive
- Challenge yourself to do your best
- There is nothing new to study. Tests are based on the curriculum expectations
- Keep normal routines - eat, exercise, socialise and sleep well

It is important to understand that NAPLAN is only a snapshot assessment of one day in one year of your child's ongoing education.

While NAPLAN aims to measure educational outcomes and create data for parents, school and government policy makers, there are many other important attributes that standardised tests cannot assess. It can not measure a student's engagement with a deep concept, that ability to collaborate, communicate constructively and generate solutions let alone real-world attributes or Gospel Values, leadership, respect and kindness.

Year 3 students have been, and will be, experiencing different types of questions that they will expected to answer during NAPLAN.

We ask that, where possible, Year 3 students attend school on these days.

Eucharist Reminder

Sunday 26th May is an exciting day for many of our Year 4 students. It is the day where they will be celebrating the sacrament of **Eucharist**.

We have two sessions, on that day, one at **9.00am** and at **11.00am**. Please feel free to attend and support our students along their faith journey. If you are unable to attend, please remember our students in your prayers.



Diary Dates

May 7th - Eucharist Family Night @ 7pm (Year 4 families only)

May 10th - Mother's Day Breakfast, Liturgy and Fun Run - fun begins at 8.30am

May 14th, 15th and 16th - NAPLAN (Year 3 Only)

May 20th, 21st and 22nd - Werribee open Range Zoo Excursion - Mon-MCT/MCA,
Tues-MCH/MCF, Wed-MCL/MCC

May 26th - **Sacrament of Eucharist**

June 7th - Student Free Day

June 10th - Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday

June 14th - Middle Community Eucharist Liturgy @ 9.15am

June 26th- Hot Dog Day

June 28th - Last Day of Term 2 - 1pm finish

Reading Logs

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 continuing support with this.



Camp 2019

Lady Northcote Camp was an awesome adventure! It was two days filled with fun, laughs and life-long memories. Students challenged themselves using Character Strengths and really embraced the experience.



Religious Education

This term students will develop an understanding of what it means to live sacramentally as they explore the sacrament of Eucharist through Religious Education lessons. Students will be making connections to Holy Thursday and the sacrament of Eucharist. We will be unpacking the understanding of the relevance of this ritual and sacrament with the Catholic faith and Jesus.

The key understanding 'As stewards of God's creation living a sacramental life is shown through our thoughts, actions and words' will open conversations and thinking around how, in the moment of Eucharist, what is considered ordinary becomes extraordinary through the power of God. Students will also explain how their actions make change and will consider ways they can sustain themselves through prayer, meditation and relationships with self, others and God. Students will have the opportunity to identify and research someone in the Catholic tradition who has demonstrated a positive influence on God's creation. Links will be made using a variety of cultural and faith based creation stories and scripture.

In the lead up to the Sacrament of Eucharist, students will continue to explore the questions:

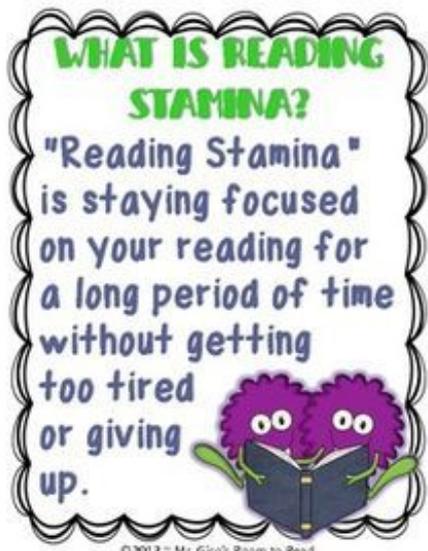
- How can we live a sacramental life?
- What is the sacrament of Eucharist?
- What are some of God's creation?
- How can we care for God's Creation?
- How can we have a positive effect on other people? (Words and actions)
- Why is it important for us to be God's stewards?



Family Eucharist packs have already been sent home with Year 4's last term. Please make sure that your child's banner is completed and returned to school before the Eucharist day.

English

Reading



In line with the Reading expectations at Stella Maris, we will be continuing to teach the skills required to become a fluent reader. In small, focus groups, teachers will work on developing the three parts of the reading process:

Within the Text - literal understand of what is written in the text, improving fluency, summarising, identifying purpose and genre

Beyond the Text - predicting, making connections with personal; experience, inferring what is implied within the text

About the Text - analysing the text and noticing aspects of the writer's craft, such as what the writer does to keep us interested, thinking critically about the text

We have been delighted with the results of our 'stamina training' and have noticed a big improvement in the engagement of the students in Reading Sessions. Keep it up, Middle Community!

Writing

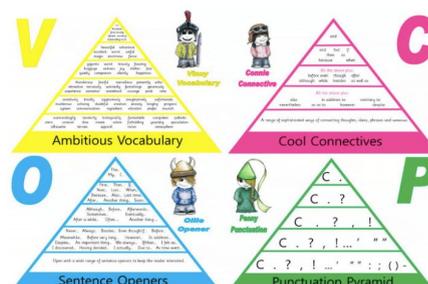
Writing: This term students will be looking at persuasive writing and are encouraged to look out for persuasive techniques in everyday life, such as TV commercials and newspaper articles. Students will also be learning about information reports and completing research based on our inquiry unit this term. We will continue to develop the writing process, with a focus on drafting and revising becoming ongoing as we craft a piece of text.

Building on the successes of Term 1, Big Write will continue this term and will give teachers the opportunity to track progress and plan for the 'next steps' in your child's learning journey. 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't say it, you can't 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. If you would like to know more about these whole school approaches, please come and talk to your child's homeroom teacher.

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



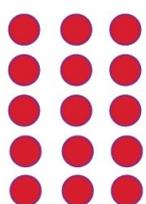
Maths

Our first unit for Term 2 is **Addition and Subtraction**. Students will be focusing on efficient strategies to solve problems. Some strategies that students will be using are listed below:

The jump strategy eg $23 + 35$; $23 + 30 = 53 + 5 = 58$	Using patterns to extend number facts eg $5 - 2 = 3$, so $500 - 200$ is 300
The split strategy eg $23 + 35$; $20 + 30 + 3 + 5$ is 58	Bridging the decades eg $34 + 17$; $34 + 10$ is 44, $44 + 7 = 51$
The compensation strategy eg $63 + 29$; $63 + 30$ is 93, subtract 1, to obtain 92	Changing the order of addends to form multiples of 10 eg $16 + 8 + 4$; add 16 and 4 first

Integrated with our addition and subtraction unit, will be our unit on **Money**. When investigating the Australian currency, we will look at how money values can be made up in different ways and rounding different amounts of money. Students will be extended with change and simple financial planners.

We will launch our **Location** unit in time for students to investigate maps and directional language, prior to our excursion to the Werribee Zoo. When investigating maps, we will identify different features including legends, grids, compass points and coordinates. We will locate and describe the positions of places and objects.



Following on from this will be a **Multiplication and Division** unit. We will be developing and using efficient mental and written strategies to represent and solve problems. The focus will be on developing multiplicative thinking (making connections with and between numbers).

Mfacts workshops will continue to develop students' understanding and strategies of multiplication facts. With the aim being full understanding of the concept of multiplication, rather than just rote learning multiplication facts. 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. We highly encourage use of Mfacts at home to practice using their strategies. <http://mfacts121.com/>

Linking with our Inquiry this term, we will be exploring concepts of **temperature**, as well as reading and interpreting different **data** displays. We will plan, conduct research through surveys and analyse and represent data collected.

RESOURCES

Mathletics tasks will continue to be set fortnightly, aligned with the topics covered at school. We encourage students to complete tasks as part of their home learning. Please see students' Reading Log for student 'log-in' information. If you require a copy of your child's log in, please see your child's teacher.

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

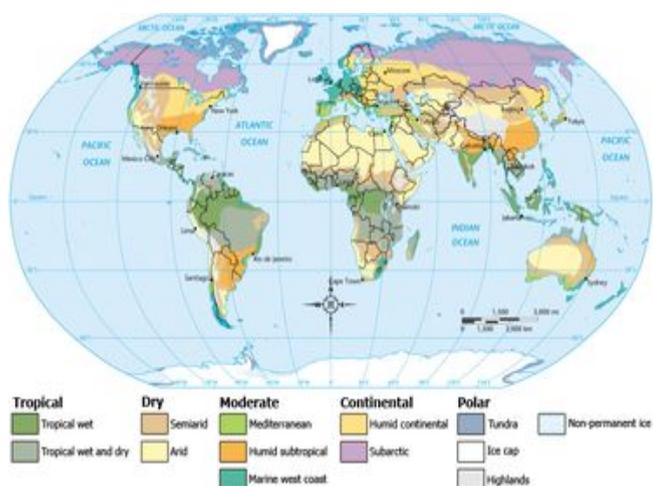
Inquiry

In Term 2, our Inquiry focus is ***Our Island Home***. This unit focuses on Science, Geography, We will investigate various geographic areas in the world, climate and the factors that affect the ecosystems within them. We will also delve into the scientific concepts of cause and effect.

Key questions we will consider are:

- What are some problems our world is facing?
- How can I be an active citizen in my community? In the world?
- How can the design process help us solve problems?

Our visit to the Werribee Zoo, will assist students to consider an environment and the animals within it, the factors they need to survive, what causes some animals to become threatened or extinct. Students will use this provocation to problem solve using and the design process and science understanding to create a prototype for a solution. This is in line with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).



THE DESIGN PROCESS

