

# Middle Community Learning Newsletter

# Term Three 2019

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

Welcome to Term Three! It is hard to believe that we are already past the halfway mark for 2019.

Highlights this term, include:

- **Friday 26th July** - Grandparents' Liturgy and morning tea (from 9.15-11.00am)
- **Friday 16th August** - SCHOOL CLOSED - STUDENT FREE DAY
- **Wednesday 21st August** - Year 4 Excursion to Emmanuel College
- **Friday 23rd August** - Middle Community Mass
- **Friday 30th August** - Father's Day Breakfast
- **Wednesday 11th September** - Reconciliation Family Night
- **Thursday 12th September** - Athletics Hobson's Bay
- **Tuesday 17th September** - Stella Maris Art Show - [Red/Blue House Colours](#)  
6pm-7:30pm
- **Wednesday 18th September** - Stella Maris Art Show - [Green/Gold House Colours](#)  
6pm-7:30pm
- **Friday 21st September** - Stella Maris Feast Day Mass (and last day of Term 3)

A reminder that **Friday 16th August** is a Student Free Day.

## Welcome

New students to our Middles family are:

Archer Bogojevic (MCF)  
Jeronimo Pedraza (MCC)

We welcome them and their families to Stella:



## **Good News**

Building on our positive culture here at Stella, Middle Community would like to share some of our '**GOOD NEWS**' stories:

- ❖ Middle Community, under the expert leadership of Julia Cascone, have just completed the third round of PSG meetings
- ❖ Our new Front Play Area is being kept clean and well looked after by Middle Community each and every day
- ❖ Dojo points are growing as students continue to make great choices
- ❖ Miss NT has started to run technology workshops to assist students with using technology more effectively across the curriculum
- ❖ Three Way Learning Conversations have created a lovely atmosphere with students sharing their proudest achievements
- ❖ All teachers and LSOs are working hard to meet the children where they are 'at' in their learning
- ❖ The new learning space is giving us more space and students are taking pride in their environment

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK, MIDDLES!

## **Student Absences**

We remind all parents that a verbal absent notification is no longer accepted.

Written explanation needs to be submitted to Admin via the following methods:

- 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 (e-mail may be used if there are any issues) [info@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au)

When submitting by SkoolBag:

Go to Home on the SkoolBag App, click on eForms, choose Absentee Form, fill in the details and submit.

## **Reading Logs**

Just a quick reminder for students to bring their Reading Logs to school each day. These are often needed for passwords, reading records and target work. It is important that they are in school bags each day. Once a week, teachers will sign them and check for daily reading. Please make sure that students write their home reading in the reading log and parents sign it at the end of the week.



Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this.

## **Please Note:**

If you would like to volunteer, make a time to talk about your student'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](mailto:@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au), e.g. [cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au)

# Stella Art Show



**Stories** is the theme of our 2019 Stella Art Show. The students have been working hard to produce art pieces using a range of techniques and skills. The show will be happening on Tuesday (Red and Blue Houses) and Wednesday (Gold and Green Houses) 17th and 18th September.

We can't wait to see you there!

I wonder what this will become?



# Wellbeing



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to Term 3! What a wonderful Term we have ahead!

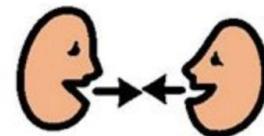
Term 3 is that magical term where we start to really see growth in our children, both academically, socially and emotionally. Look out for the changes in your child and enjoy them as much as you can! They grow up way too quickly!

## WELLBEING TIP for the term!

**#HOW  
WAS  
YOUR  
DAY?**

How often do you tire from hearing the frequent monotone, “Good” response when you ask your child how their day was? Why not try out a few of these questions to spark conversation around the dinner table !

1. What did you eat for lunch?
2. Did you catch anyone doing something funny?
3. What games did you play at recess?
4. What was the funniest thing that happened today?
5. Did anyone do anything super nice for you?
6. What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
7. Who made you smile today?
8. Which one of your teachers would survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?
9. What new fact did you learn today?
10. Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?
11. What challenged you today?
12. If school were a ride at the fair, which ride would it be? Why?
13. What would you rate your day on a scale of 1 to 10? Why?
14. If one of your classmates could be the teacher for the day who would you want it to be? Why?
15. If you had the chance to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
16. Did anyone push your buttons today?
17. Who do you want to make friends with but haven't yet? Why not?
18. What is your teacher's most important rule?
19. What is the most popular thing to do at recess?
20. Does your teacher remind you of anyone else you know? How?
21. Tell me something you learned about a friend today.
22. What was your favorite subject to study today? Why?
23. What is one thing you did today that was helpful?
24. When did you feel most proud of yourself today?
25. What rule was the hardest to follow today?
26. What is one thing you hope to learn before the school year is over?
27. Which person in your class is your exact opposite?
28. Which area of your school is the most fun?
29. Which playground skill do you plan to master this year?
30. Does anyone in your class have a hard time following the rules?



<https://www.mother.ly/child/30-questions-to-ask-your-kid-instead-of-how-was-your-day>

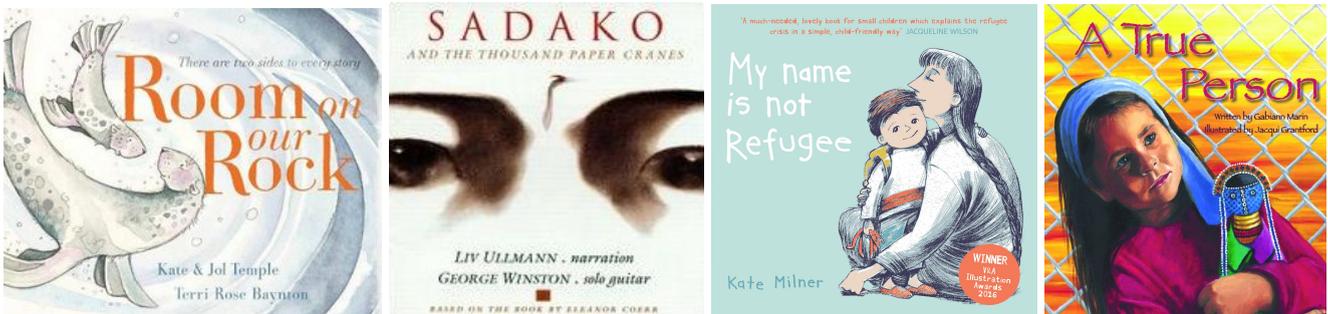
**WELCOME**

We would like to welcome Siobhan Browne who will be working with MCT each Thursday while completing her Learning Support Officer Studies. We look forward to learning alongside her as she shares her newly learnt skills!

# Religious Education

This term, students will develop an understanding of the history of the Catholic Church and how its community is filled with people who have made an impact. Students will learn about people from around the world and how they have created change within our Catholic Community.

Through our Term 3 Inquiry Unit of **'Into the Unknown'**, students will make connections with saints and the impact they have had within their communities. They will be learning about what makes a saint, what their actions were, and the impact they have had on others and the world. We will be unpacking and making connections to the Social Justice Principles through using picture story books such as: ['Room on Our Rock'](#), ['My Name Is Not Refugee'](#), ['A True Person'](#) and ['Sadako And The Thousand Paper Cranes'](#).



Students will learn about the meaning behind the symbols, signs and rituals of Reconciliation. The Year 3 students will receive their Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Wednesday the 23rd October.**

(Term 4, Week 4).

Students will explore how to form and maintain positive relationships with others, self and God by using the steps of Reconciliation:

- Admitting
- Saying sorry
- Asking for forgiveness
- Being forgiven
- Moving forward

for give  
US OUR TRESPASSES  
+ AS WE  
for give  
THOSE WHO TRESPASS  
AGAINST US

# English

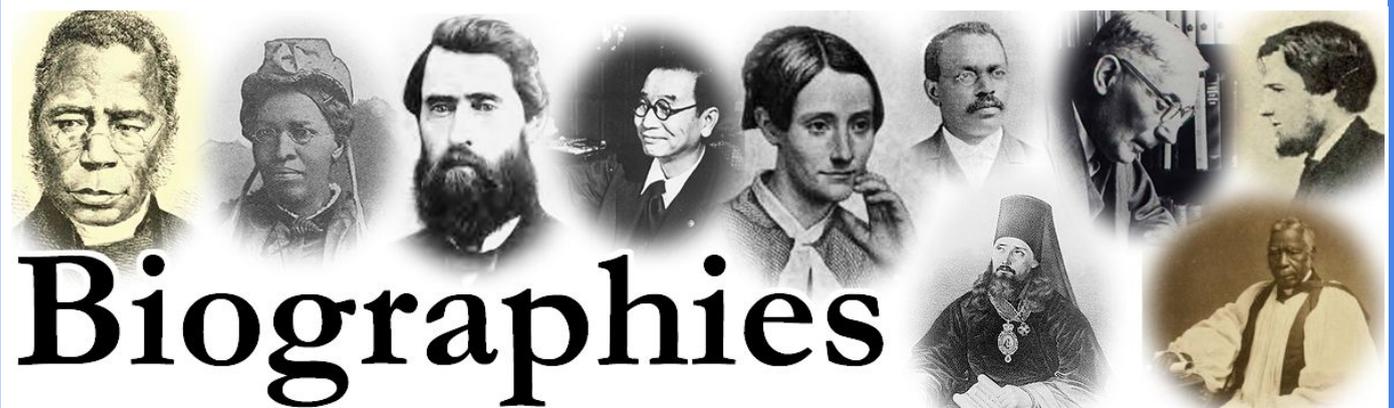
In Term 3, students will be learning about procedural texts where they will learn the format for writing a sequence of instructions, focusing on specific word choice, bullet points and sequential order. They will be taught to add features, such as diagrams and brackets to support the text.

In the next unit, students will be exposed to various styles of poetry and learn about creative and figurative language. Students will be encouraged to bring in some of their favourite poems to share with the class.

Students will then move onto biographies and developing their research skills as well as compiling what they have discovered into short oral presentations. They will be considering the features of non-fiction texts. Big Writes will give them the opportunity to write their own texts.

In Reading, students will be developing more advanced reading skills, such as critiquing and analysing texts. They will be encouraged to bring their own prior knowledge into their reading experiences. Small Reading Groups work daily with class teachers to unpack texts and meet students at their point of need.

In the last few weeks of term, students will be given a research project based on a key figure, from our Religion or Inquiry Unit, that they would like to find out more about. This might be a saint, astronaut, inventor, explorer or scientist that has impacted the world through their work. Students will be taught the skills of presenting texts, organising facts into categories as well as coming up with a unique angle and then using a dramatic flair to present their work.



## **Big Writes**

Big Write will continue to take place every fortnight. Students will be given a stimulus to bring home and enter into Big Talk about the given stimulus. Big Write will take place each Wednesday of [Blue Week](#).

Please continue to support your child at home with daily reading and Big Talks, relating to our Big Writes. Daily reading should be recorded in your child's Reading Log which should be at school on a daily basis.

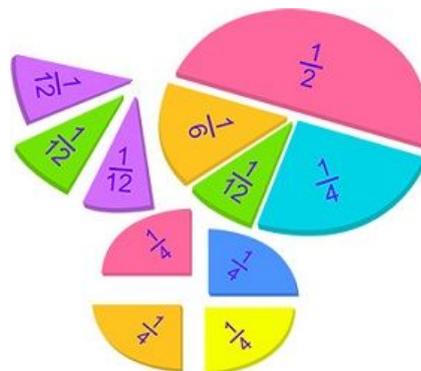
Thank you for your continuing support with Home Learning Tasks.

# Maths



At the beginning of Term 3, students will be learning about **Mass**. When investigating Mass students, will be using scales to measure, compare and order the mass of different objects. They will use the formal units of grams and kilograms.

In the **Fractions and Decimals** unit, students will explore different representations of fractions and investigate the relationship of fractions and decimals. Students will learn to recognise that the place value system can be extended to tenths and hundredths.



In the **Chance** unit, students will conduct chance experiments, identifying and describing possible outcomes and recognising variation in results. Students will be using appropriate language to describe possible everyday events and order their chances of occurring.

Our final unit of the semester is **3D Objects**. In this unit, students will make models of three-dimensional objects and describe, compare and classify them based on their properties. They will relate and connect 2D and 3D shapes based on the properties.

This term, we will be continuing **Mfacts workshops** to continue to develop students' understanding and strategies of multiplication facts. We encourage students to access this online learning tool at home. Students can complete practice tests and watch strategy videos. The online program has assessment activities that will be conducted during school learning time.

**An expectation by the end of the year is that Year 3 students are able to recall multiplication facts of two, three, five and ten times tables. Year 4 students should be able to recall times tables up to 10 x 10.**

**Mfacts** is a program designed by Maths intervention teachers to support and develop each child at the point of need. It is a strategy based approach to learning multiplication that students are welcome to use at home. Our aim is that students fully understand the concept of multiplication, rather than just rote learning times tables. Please help your child to see that multiplication is 'groups of', such as 5 groups of 3 is 15. This can be shown as an array. <http://mfacts121.com/>

**Mathletics** is a fantastic resource that students may continue to use at home, see Reading Log for student 'log-in' information. <http://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student>

# Inquiry

Term 3 brings an exciting new Inquiry Unit, 'Into the Unknown'. This unit considers people and events that have impacted and changed our society.

Students will learn about people who shaped our interconnected world. They will research a significant explorer or scientist in classes whilst preparing a futurist art piece for the Stella Art Show... (What this space!)

Students will also investigate how Stella Maris has changed over the years by looking at photographs from the last 13 years.

As a 'hands on' STEM project, students will explore space travel and learn more about the moon landing of 1969. They will attempt to build a craft that protects an egg during the impact of landing. (AKA - Being thrown from the top of the playground!)

The key understanding for this unit is:

*“People and events impact change in society.”*

## **Key question that we will consider are:**

- How have past people and events made an impact and created change?
- How has the impact and change been positive or negative?
- By learning from people and events of the past, how can we create change that impacts the future?



At home, students may like to research explorers and scientists that have made an impact on society through their work.

Can you think of ways to support our learning at home?



