

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term Four 2019

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

The final term of 2019 is underway!

Highlights of this very busy term, include:

- **Friday 18th October** - Twilight Sports Carnival 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- **Wednesday 23th October** - Sacrament of Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Healing (Two Session options: 6.30pm and 7.15pm)
- **Thursday and Friday 24th and 25th October** - Middles Incursion Bricks 4 Kids
- **Monday 4th November** - School Closure
- **Tuesday 5th November** - Melbourne Cup (School Closed)
- **Tuesday 12th November** - Student Led Learning Conferences - 8.20-8.50am/3.30-6.30pm
- **Friday 22nd November** - Student Free Day - Staff First Aid Training
- **Monday 25th November** - Community Advent Liturgy Week One 8.50am
- **Friday 29th November** - Middle Community Mass and Learning Assembly
- **Monday 2nd December** - Community Advent Liturgy Week Two 8.50am
- **Monday 9th December** - Community Advent Liturgy Week Three 8.50am
- **Friday 13th December** - Whole School Transition: Learning Area with new teachers. Community Market (2-3pm).
- **Monday 16th December** - Community Advent Liturgy Week Four 8.50am. Rites of Passage Celebration & Carols 6:30pm. Reports sent home.
- **Wednesday 18th December** - 9:15am Whole School End of Year Mass. Last day Term 4 - Students finish at 1pm.

Please take time to check these dates and add them to your calendars. The weeks will fly by and Christmas will be upon us before we know it!



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 or contact us via Dojo.

Any teacher may be contacted using their initial and last name followed by @stellamaris.catholic.edu.au, e.g. cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Student Absences

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

A written explanation needs to be submitted to Admin via the following methods:

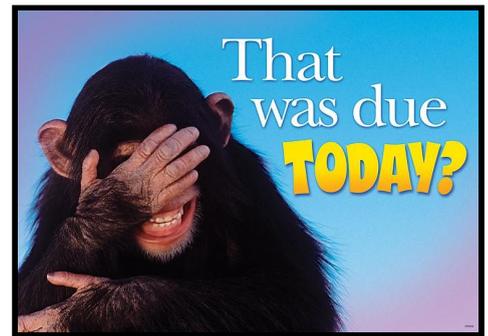
- Parents/guardians are responsible for contacting the school on that day of an expected absence to inform them and to provide an explanation for their absence
- This must be done prior to 8:50am of the school day
- This may be done via the school's preferred method: SkoolBag App (e-mail may be used if there are any issues) info@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

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, notes or date reminders. 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 and parents sign it at the end of the week.



Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this.

Book Donation

A big thank you to author Dawn Brown (Mrs Naraghi's sister) for her donation of her debut book, '**Herbert Loves Pink**'. It can be found in our school Library.



Wellbeing



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to Term 4! The last one for the year and my what a busy term it will be!
So, here's the down low !



Welcome!

We welcome back Kim Petrie to the Middle Community this term. Many of you will already know Kim in her role as Wellbeing Adjustment Coach last year and early this year. Kim is back from Maternity leave to continue to share her expert knowledge and will be working alongside Julia in this space. Kim's working days are Tuesday and Friday.

Transitions

This time of year can seem very daunting for our students (as well as the teachers!). There is lots of change and chatter in the air about 2020, especially for our Year 4 students who will be moving out of Middles and into the Senior Community. Change can be scary but also exciting! Down here in the Middles, we are on top of it!

Our wonderful Learning Support Officers Elaine and Akuol, along with Julia and Kim have already begun supporting this process with many of our students. We are providing a range of 'supports' including:

- small visits to the Senior community to familiarise students with the area
- opportunities to work down in the space with support
- meeting some of the Senior staff to help develop relationships
- small group and one on one sessions focusing on how things might change or stay the same
- intensive handover coordination between staff



If you feel your child may need some further support in this area, please feel free to make contact with your class teacher, Julia or Kim. We are always here to help !

Intervention

From Reading to Writing, to Phonological Awareness, Mathematics, as well as Social Learning, the Middles are going strong! If you have your Working with Children Check and could spare a few hours a week volunteering and working with our students, we'd love to hear from you!

**Go Gently,
Julia and Kim**

*"Watch your thoughts, for
they become words
Watch your words, for they
become your actions
Watch your actions, for they
become habits
Watch your habits, for they
become character
Watch your character, for it
becomes your destiny."*

- Unknown

Religious Education

During Term 4, students will learn about the importance of Reconciliation. The Year 3 students will receive their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday the 23rd October (Term 4, Week 3).

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
- Making Up & Moving forward

Students will develop an understanding of the concept of 'Perspective' in order to help them consider others more in their day to day lives. Different people have different needs and we, as Christians, have a responsibility to ensure equality for others. We will be investigating the impact of actions, thoughts and ideas on relationships.

As Christmas approaches, students will be investigating the Advent story; connecting this with the choices that they make within their lives at school and home. They will be given time to reflect, give thanks, spread love, hope, peace and joy. The Stella Maris Christmas Market will be on again and we hope with your support it will be bigger and better than ever! Students will make items to sell, based on our Inquiry Unit, and the money raised will be our Social Justice action to provide hope, love, joy and peace to people in our local community who need our support.



English

Narratives

Everyone loves a story and Middle students will hone their craft of writing narratives; including: figurative language, settings, characters and plot. Students will be taken through the process of writing from drafting and rehearsing to editing and publishing.

Explanation Texts

Students will then move on to explanation texts where they will learn the difference between explanation and procedural texts. An **explanation text** tells your audience how something works or why something happens. Students will explore this genre throughout our Inquiry also.

Functional Writing

Finally, students will be exposed to functional writing, in the form of letters, emails and invitations. They will consider audience and learn both formal and informal methods of communication. Students will need to consider the information that is required and how to present that in the most effective way for the desired audience.

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 remind students to share their Big Write ideas with you at home and come prepared to Big Write each fortnight.

Reading

This term we will be developing strategies for reading. Students will be learning to predict what might happen both at the start and throughout the text. They will also be exposed to ways to make connections to the text and use their prior knowledge to make links. Other skills will include:

- Clarifying
- Inference
- Summarise
- Evaluate

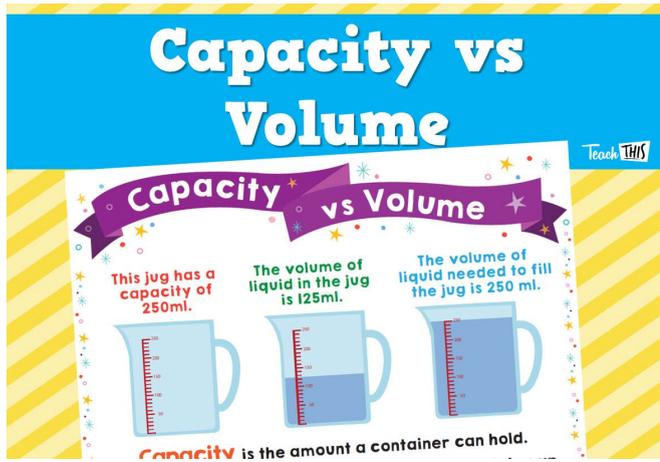
Students will be taught how to become independent with these skills so that they can work on the area that they feel they need most practice.

Please ask your child to explain these strategies to you so that they can work on them as part of their home learning.

Please continue to support your child at home with daily reading. Daily reading should be recorded in your child's reading log which should be at school on a daily basis.



Maths



Volume and Capacity unit is going to kick start the term for us in Middles. Students will use formal units and scaled instruments to measure, order and compare objects using familiar units of volume and capacity.

A **Multiplication and Division** unit will follow on, in which students will be developing and using efficient mental and written strategies to represent and solve problems. Students

will be investigating number sequences involving multiples of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

In the next unit of **Time**, students will then explore the different formats and units of time. This will include reading analogue and digital clocks and exploring the relationship between hours, minutes and seconds.

Our final unit of this semester is **Money**. In this unit, students will be representing money values in multiple ways, and solving problems involving purchases. Students will be calculating total amounts spent and change required.



Multiplication workshops will continue throughout this term to further develop students' understanding and strategies of multiplication facts.

We encourage students to access **MFacts**, an online learning tool, at home. It is a strategy based approach to learning multiplication, where the learning intention is for students to fully understand the concept of multiplication, rather than just rote learning the facts. Please help your child to see that multiplication is 'groups of', such as 5 groups of 3 is 15. Students can complete practice tests and watch strategy videos. The online program has assessment activities that will be conducted during school learning time.

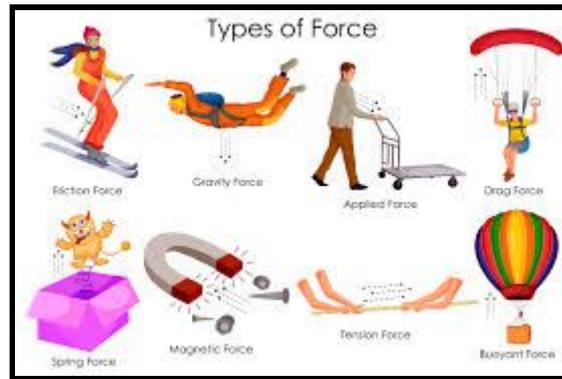
<http://mfacts121.com/>

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. Year 4 students should be able to recall multiplication facts up to 10 x 10.

Mathletics is another fantastic resource that students may continue to use at home, please see Reading Logs for 'log-in' information.

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

Inquiry



This term the Middle Community are commencing our new Inquiry Unit, **'Forces and Functions'**. Students will be engaged in the practical application of physics and programming. They will learn how forces can be exerted on one object by another as they design and build a balloon powered car. Students will learn how to create simple programs using Scratch. They will create their own computer application and provide feedback to their classmates about their creations.

The key understanding for this unit is:

"Scientific thinking allows for problem solving and innovation."

Students will discover that engineering is applying the scientific thinking and use the design process to problem solve and innovate.

The community will have an in school incursion that will combine design and coding to create moving Lego models.

