

# Middle Community Learning Newsletter

## Term One 2020

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

Welcome back to 2020! What a great start it has been. Classes have settled and students have returned ready and eager to work and learn. Our two new refurbished classrooms have been a hit. Thank you to all the parents who are committed to building positive relationships with staff in the Middle Community. It has been great to see so many of you in the mornings for class prayer time.

This year, the Middle Community consists of:



Claire Naraghi (MCC)  
Middle Community Coach



Mary Luatua  
(MCL)



Ashlea  
Timmins-Hughes  
(MCH)



Rachael Foley  
(MCF)



(Thieu-Quang) NT  
(MCT)



Amanda Ferrarese  
(MCA)



Elaine Donald  
Learning Support Officer



Akuol Diing  
Learning Support Officer



Sebastian Kemmerer  
(MCS)



Jennifer  
Aguilar (MCC)

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. **Claire Naraghi** [cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cnaraghi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au)

Our team looks forward to an exciting year of learning, growth and progress, not to mention Camp! We hope that we can journey together through your child's education in the Middle Community.

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

# Wellbeing Welcome!

Hello Everyone,

We are the Wellbeing Adjustment Coaches in the Middle Community. We are here to support all children and their families throughout the year. You will see us around the community supporting students with their social, emotional and academic learning.

**Kim** - Tuesdays and Fridays

**Julia** - Tuesday, Wednesday (Blue week) , Thursday (Green week) and Friday.

Feel free to give us a call, email or Dojo.

We look forward to learning and growing with you all and watching your children shine!



**Kim Petrie**

[kpetrie@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kpetrie@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au)



**Julia Cascone**

[jcascone@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jcascone@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au)

## Welcome



Hello and konnichiwa!

I am Sayako Sensei, the Japanese teacher at Stella Maris Catholic Primary School. My passion is music and yoga. I am so excited to teach and learn Japanese and looking forward to getting to know you.

## Diary Dates

February 11th and 19th - Get To Know You Interviews (Book through PTO)

February 14th - Whole School Mass @ 9.15am

February 21st - School finishes @ 1.00pm

February 22nd - **STELLA MARIS FUN DAY**

February 26th - Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 9.15am

March 5th and 6th - Student Free Days

March 9th - Labour Day - no school

March 13th - Middles Mass and Learning Session in classes from 9.15am - 11.30am

March 27th - Easter Liturgy @ 9.15am/ School finishes @ 1.00pm

# Hats



It's Term 1, which means we need to wear hats during play time.  
Please help your child remember theirs everyday.

## Camp 2020 - Save the date!

This year our camps will be happening in Week 6 of Term 2. We will be attending the YMCA Camp at Anglesea. Classes will attend camp as follows:

Camp A - Wednesday 20th until Thursday 21st May for **MCT, MCL, MCH and MCF**

Camp B - Thursday 21st until Friday 22nd May for **MCC, MCA and MCS**

**It is expected that all children will attend the camp.**



There will be a **Camp Information Session/Meeting** on **Thursday 7th May** at **3.30pm** for **parents**.

Any parents who would like to consider assisting at Camp this year, please see Claire Naraghi in MCC. We have a limited number of places available for Camp but other opportunities for helping with activities will be available throughout the year. Interested parties must have a current **Working With Children Card**.

## SMART Spelling

Middle Community is excited to be trialing Michelle Hutchison's SMART Spelling this year. This is a way to teach common sound and letter patterns linked to THRASS. In a SMART Spelling classroom, students are explicitly taught spelling patterns, one at a time. Teachers choose a range of words (from simple to complex) from a suggested list in the manual. Students are then guided to choose from that list, to meet different needs. Personal words are also a focus in SMART Spelling. Teachers use their strong professional knowledge they gain in the course to give meaningful feedback to students about their spelling in writing, teaching at the point of need.

Please look out for spelling activities in your child's bag.

[A model of SMART spelling](#)

| The 4 Spelling Rules  |
|---|
| 1. In most words – just add the suffix  |
| 2. When a word ends in e<br>drop the e<br>and add the vowel suffix  |
| 3. When the second last letter makes the sound<br>“a” “e” “i” “o” “u”<br>double the last letter<br>and add the vowel suffix |
| 4. When a word ends in the graph y<br>change the y to i<br>and add any suffix<br>except /ing/                               |

# Wonder of Living

Empowering parents as the primary educators of their child in the area of sexuality education. It is our belief that important conversations around sexuality should be done in the safety of the home, and supported by the school, not the reverse. As part of our School Improvement Plan, and following positive feedback from parents last year, we will continue to offer the **'Wonder of Living' Family Enrichment Program** at Stella Maris. This will be an "opt in" opportunity for families.

We will hold two Parent and Child sessions for middle and senior community families on Monday 16th March, 2020. The purpose of the Parent and Child Session is to encourage good communication amongst families about important topics.

The cost is \$10 per family. This is payable on the night.

Information builds sequentially. Topics covered in the parent and child session include:

**'A New Baby!'** - Topics: development and birth of babies.

(suitable for **Year 3 and 4 students - 6pm-7pm**)

**'And Now There's Me'** - Topics: the human body; growing and changing; explanation of sexual intercourse and conception including some info about menstrual cycle; healthy choices; support networks; resilience (suitable for **Year 5 and 6 students - 7:15pm - 8:30pm**)

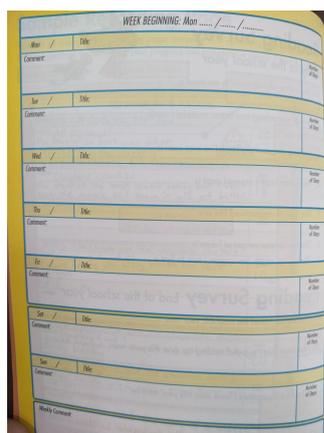
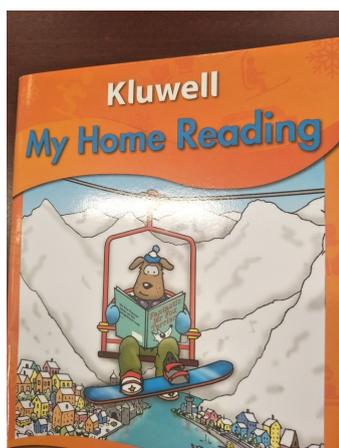
# Reading Logs

This year, the Middle Community will be continuing the use of **Reading Logs**. Your child will already have a **Reading Log**.

The purpose of these is to track their home reading. Each day, students will record the title of the book they are reading and for how long/how many pages. Teachers will sign them weekly.

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 support with this.



# Religious Education

**Key Understanding** - How we connect as a community helps us to belong

This term, in Religion the students will be focusing on developing a learning culture around expectations for prayer, masses and liturgies. We will be deepening our learning about the Gospel Values and the connections between these and our Character Strengths.

During Easter time, students will be investigating the relationship between the story, the symbols and the rituals of Holy Week and Easter. They will be discussing the relationships that Jesus made and the impact he had on others. The students will be learning about Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. They will discuss that Lent is a time of reflection, and are encouraged to look within themselves with the purpose of making a difference. They will extend this to those around them.

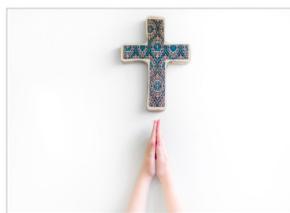
To develop and strengthen our sense of community, we openly invite families to join us for morning prayer in our learning spaces each day at 8.50am. We also encourage families to actively participate during this time. The students would benefit from families sharing their thoughts and ideas or any symbols that connect to our learning, during prayer, as this will help their thinking grow. We invite all families to join us for Middle Community Prayer every Friday morning at 8.50am.

**Save the date: Year 4 Sacrament of Eucharist Family Night: 21st April @ 7pm**

**Year 4 Sacrament of Eucharist: 3rd May 9am or 11am**



COMMITMENT



INTEGRITY



INDEPENDENCE



EMPATHY



COOPERATION



ENTHUSIASM



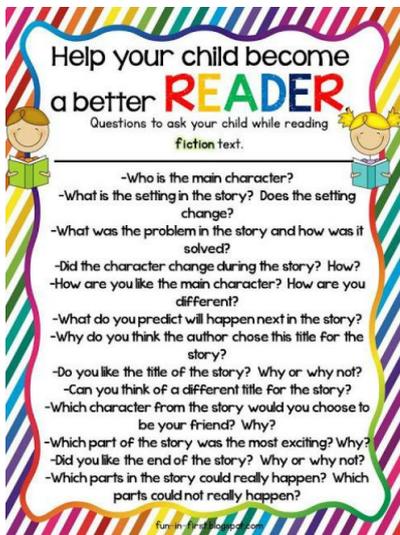
RESPECT



CREATIVITY

# English

## Reading



At Stella Maris, we aim for high expectations from all of our students. We deliver high quality lessons based on the Victorian Curriculum. This term, we will be focusing on developing the skills required to sustain reading. We will work to develop comprehension strategies such as reading for understanding, predicting and making connections. Students will be part of weekly reading groups and regular one-on-one conferences with their teacher.

The Middle Community expectation is that students read a minimum of 5 times each week at home. These sessions should be recorded in the student's Reading Logs and signed weekly. The impact of home reading should never be underestimated and parents are encouraged to get involved with questions about the text, listening or sharing the reading experience. Please see your child's teacher for support with individual goals and strategies to improve your child's understanding of text.

## Writing

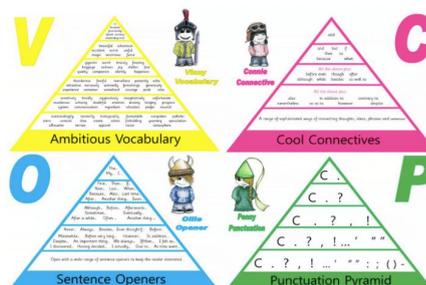
**Writing:** This term students will revisit the writing process as a whole and will focus on developing the skill of 'viewing self as a writer'. Students will continue to develop pieces of writing, through a range of genres, using their Writer's Notebook. Students will be taught the structures and language features of recounts and persuasives this term. Punctuation and grammar will be covered through our Writing Sessions.

Big Write will continue this year and the students are excited to begin. 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 say it, you can 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, SMART Spelling or THRASS at home.

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



These are our consistent approaches to Literacy at Stella Maris and your child's teacher will be able to explain them further.

# Maths

At the beginning of Term 1, students will be learning about **Place Value**; investigating the values that a digit holds in a number, and exploring expanded notation ( $2576 = 2000 + 500 + 70 + 6$ ).

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.

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.

This term, we will also be having **Number** sessions each Friday where students will be looking at the area of **Number** through games, paired, group activities as well as working on individual targets. These may range from a strategy for addition to times tables.

## Resources



Students will be provided with login details for two amazing digital maths resources that are accessible at home. **Mathletics** tasks will be set fortnightly, aligned with the topics covered at school. We highly encourage students to complete tasks on these sites as part of their home learning.

**Mathletics** is a fantastic resource that students may continue to use at home, see Reading Log for student 'log-in' information.

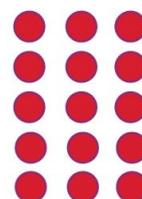
<http://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student>



The Victorian Curriculum expects that, by the end of Year 4, all students will know their times tables, up to  $10 \times 10$ . It remains a skill that does need to be learnt by repetition but also fully understood. **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' 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.

<http://mfacts121.com/>

# Inquiry

This term, our Inquiry Unit; *Knowing Me, Knowing You* is about *Developing our Learning Culture*. From this unit students will be unpacking the Key Understanding; **Choices impact the culture created within communities.**

Students will explore how Middle Community works, expectations of them as well as considering ways that they learn best, effective teamwork and their role within the community. Students will investigate and practise using different thinking tools and resources to help develop themselves as lifelong learners. These concepts will be deepened throughout the year.

Students will be immersed in a range of prompts and activities that aim to allow them to gain deeper insight into their identities; about their roles within their communities and the wider society. They will be challenged with the notion that their choices impact the culture created within communities. We will unpack how our Character Strengths can be turned up or down to help us deal with different situations that we may face. Students will learn different problem solving strategies to overcome challenges and maintain healthy relationships and lifestyles.

THE  
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