

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term One 2021

Acknowledgment of the Traditional custodians

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners of these lands and waters, the Yalukit Willum Clan of the Bunurong people.

We also acknowledge and pay respect to the broader Kulin Nation..

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Australia.

We acknowledge the loss of lands, cultures and treasures: knowing the consequences for people, communities and nations and believing we can walk together to a better future.

Welcome back to 2021 and what we hope will be a more 'normal' year!

We are now at our 8 class capacity in Middle Community and look forward to the opportunities for sharing of expertise in such a great team of staff and students.

Below are our fantastic team, who you will see out and about in the community. Feel free to approach any of us to help you as you settle into school life once again.

This year, the Middle Community consists of:



Claire Naraghi (MCC)
Middle Community Coach



Mary Luatua
(MCL)



Ashlea
Timmins-Hughes (MCT)



Rachael Foley
(MCF)



Haylea Anderson
(MCH)



Amanda Ferrarese
(MCA)



Elaine Donald
Learning Support Officer



Akuol Diing
Learning Support Officer



Aphrodite Loizou
(MCC)



Sana Haider
Learning Support Officer



Kim Ellis
Learning Support Officer



Kim Petrie
Wellbeing and
Adjustment Coach



Sebastian Kemmerer
(MCS)



Jennifer
Aguilar (MCJ)



Jules Cascone
Wellbeing and
Adjustment Coach



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.

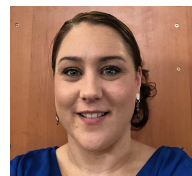
You will see us around the community supporting students with their social, emotional and academic learning.

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
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
kpetrie@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au



Julia Cascone
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
jcascone@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

ALLIED HEALTH @ Stella

This year the Wellbeing Adjustment Coaches (WACs) will be working in consultation with Nathan and Bahar in their roles as Psychologist and Speech Pathologist. Their expert knowledge will support us to make adjustments so that our students continue to flourish. If you wish to enquire about how our Allied Health staff can support your family, please contact your Community Wellbeing Adjustment Coach (WAC).

Nathan Missen
PSYCHOLOGIST



Hello all,

My name is Nathan Missen, and I am a new addition to the Stella Maris Community this year. I have been in the Mental Health field for 13 years. After completing my Doctorate in 2012, and my Post Doctoral Fellowship in Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2013. I worked in a variety of school settings in the USA. I returned to Australia and began private practice work 2015,

I then transitioned to the Department of Education and Training in 2019.

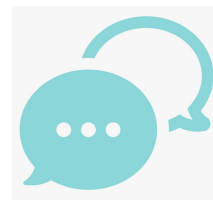
I have a passion for helping children and families improve their mental health practices, with a focus on developing strengths and resilience, especially with complex and challenging behaviours. Outside of work, I enjoy kung-fu, fencing, and family excursions to the local parks. I'm looking forward to an exciting year filled with opportunities for growth!



Bahar Yildirim
SPEECH
PATHOLOGIST



Hello! My name is Mrs. Bahar and I am so excited to be your Speech Pathologist and join the wonderful Stella Maris community. I have been a Speech Pathologist for 17 years and love working with students and teachers. I enjoy exploring the outdoors, travelling, spending the day at the beach, painting and watching 'thriller' movies. I have a very white and fluffy Japanese Spitz that loves cuddles and walks. I look forward to getting to know the students and their families. We are aiming for an AMAZING year!!!



Keeping In Touch

Please note, any teacher may be contacted using their initial and last name followed by @stellamaris.catholic.edu.au, e.g. **Claire Naraghi** 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.

Diary Dates

February 10th and 16th - Get To Know You Interviews (Book through PTO)
February 12th - Whole School Mass @ 9.15am (Senior Student Leader parents only)
February 17th - Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 9.15am
February 23rd - Camp Information Session @ 4.30pm
March 4th and 5th - Student Free Days
March 8th - Labour Day - no school
March 15th - 16th Middles Camp A -MCC/MCF/MCJ/MCS
March 16th -17th - Middles Camp B - MCA/MCH/MCL/MCT
March 25th - Reconciliation Year 4s (2 sessions - during school hours)
April 1st - Easter Liturgy @ 9.15am/ School finishes @ 1.00pm

Dojo



If you haven't already, please sign up for **Class Dojo** as we find it a really effective communication tool between teachers and parents here in Middle Community.

Hats

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



Camp 2021 - Save the date!

This year our camps will be happening in Week 8 of Term 1. We will be attending the Lady Northcote YMCA Camp at Bacchus Marsh. Classes will attend camp as follows:

Camp A - Monday 15th until Tuesday 16th March for **MCC/MCF/MCS/MCJ**

Camp B - Tuesday 16th until Wednesday 17th March for **MCA/MCT/MCL/MCH**

It is expected that all children will attend the camp.



There will be a **Camp Information Session/Meeting** on **Tuesday 23rd February** at **4.30pm** for **parents** via **Zoom** (details to follow).

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 continuing 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 drop the e and add the vowel suffix	
3. When the second last letter makes the sound “a” “e” “i” “o” “u” double the last letter and add the vowel suffix	
4. When a word ends in the graph y change the y to i and add any suffix except /ing/	

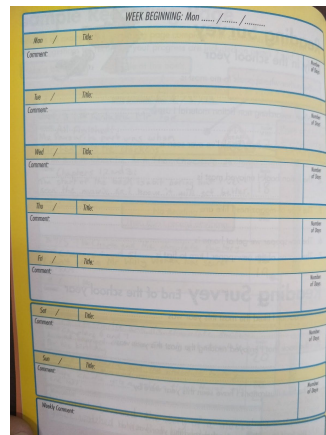
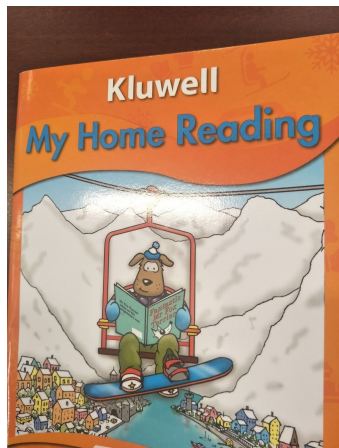
Reading Logs

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.



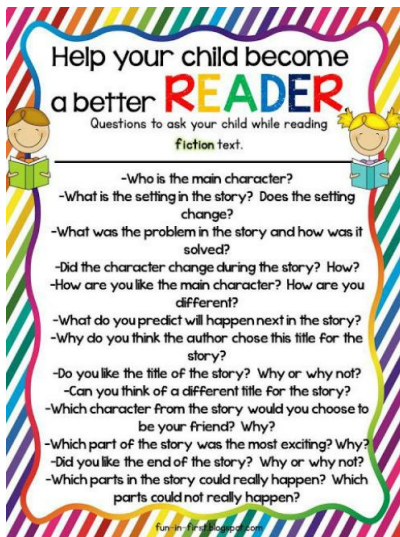
Headphones

Please could ALL Middle students bring in a pair of headphones to use on the computers during learning time. This allows us to access more programs without disrupting those around us. Smaller is better as these will be kept in students; tubs.



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, summarising 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

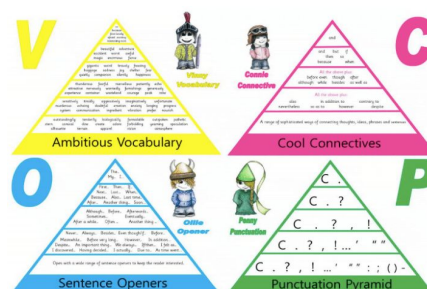
This term, students will revisit the writing process as a whole and will focus on developing the skill of 'viewing self as a writer'. There will be a particular focus on the planning stage of the writing process this term. Students will continue to develop pieces of writing, through a range of genres, using their Writer's Notebook. Students will be taught the structures and language features of narratives and begin to look at persuasive writing. Both Writing and Reading will be interlinked with our Discovery and Encounter units.

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 in preparation for NAPLAN.

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 ($2576 = 2000 + 500 + 70 + 6$).

Our second unit this term, we will be exploring concepts of **data** by interpreting and representing different displays. We will plan, conduct research through surveys and analyse and represent the data collected.

Our **Number** unit this term is **Addition & Subtraction** where students will be looking at a range of different strategies and the connection between addition and subtraction (with a focus on efficient strategies).



Our final unit for the term is **Time**. Students will explore the different formats and units of time. This will include reading analogue and digital clocks, as well as exploring the relationship between hours, minutes and seconds.

Maths Workshops

The focus for Term 1 Maths Workshops is Backwards and Forward Number Word Sequence. Ask your child to show you their forward and backward counting that they have been working on in their workshops.

Resources

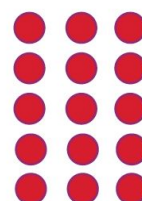
Students will be provided with login details for an amazing digital maths resource that is accessible at home: Mfacts121.



The Victorian Curriculum expects that, by the end of Year 4, all students will know their times tables, up to 10×10 . 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/>

As a school we have decided not to use **Mathletics** this year. However, there will be some other maths learning sent home, alongside the Mfacts program, later in the term.

Discovery & Encounter

This term, our Discovery Unit is about ***Developing our Learning Culture***. From this unit students will be unpacking the Key Understanding; **People use science to understand the world and solve challenges in regenerative ways.**

Students will explore how the Middle Community works, expectations of them as well as considering ways that they learn best. Students will investigate and practise using different thinking tools and resources to help develop themselves as lifelong learners. These concepts will be explored deeper 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 senses and emotions. We will unpack how our brains work, as well as ask and answer questions about who they are using the book called 'Who am I?'. Students will learn different problem solving strategies to overcome challenges and maintain healthy relationships and lifestyles. We will develop our emotional and social understanding connecting to our thoughts, feelings and mental wellbeing through the use of the 'Zones of Regulation' and the 'Emotion Mood Meter'. These link to scientific research and promote the use of strategies and tools to develop language to express emotions and tools to regulate emotions.

THE
ZONES OF
REGULATION®



Creativity Perspective
Judgment Curiosity
Honesty Bravery Fairness
PERSEVERANCE HUMOR Zest
Love Kindness Leadership
Social Intelligence Love of Learning
Forgiveness HOPE PRUDENCE
Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence Humility
Spirituality SELF-REGULATION Gratitude
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Encounter (previously known as Religious Education)

Key Understanding - Spirituality and Reconciliation promotes living sacramentally

This term, in 'Encounter' 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 Character Strengths and identify how these help with our learning.

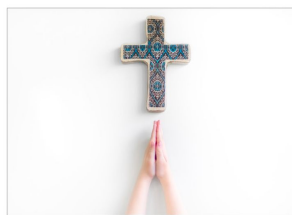
During Easter time, students will be investigating the relationship between the story, the symbols and the rituals of Holy Week and Easter. They will be discussing the relationships that Jesus made and the impact he had on others. The students will be learning about Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. 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.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: Wednesday 17th February (within each community)

Students will learn about the meaning behind the symbols, signs and rituals of Reconciliation. The Year 4 students will receive their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 25th March **(during school hours)**.



COMMITMENT



INTEGRITY



INDEPENDENCE



EMPATHY



COOPERATION



ENTHUSIASM



RESPECT



CREATIVITY