

Senior Community Learning Newsletter

Term 1 2021

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

"It starts with a voice..."

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Stella Maris Senior Community 2021!

We have an exciting year planned; full of learning, connectedness and growth.
Please join us in welcoming our new student and family to Stella Maris and the Senior Community:

Sasha Dhalavi

The senior mentors will be encouraging students to approach school with a growth mindset. Students and their mentors are all learners. If we find something hard, it's because we can't do it yet.

Our mistakes are all opportunities for learning, and we can all grow and develop.

By working together we will be living the Gospel Values of *'Independence, Empathy, Commitment, Enthusiasm, Creativity, Integrity, Cooperation and Respect.'*

Our team looks forward to an exciting year of learning, growth and progress, not to mention camp! With your support we know it is going to be fantastic!

Student leaders of 2021

Community Partnership Leaders: Zoe Smith, Sienna Solarino

Regeneration Leaders: Nicolo Cimadoro, Heidi Utomo

Wellbeing Leaders: Chelsea Dela Cruz, Isaac Dennis

Communication & Information: Riya Dutta, Maya Robinson

Arts Leaders: Jeriel Gregorio, Sarah Gongora-Rodriguez

Sport Leaders: Lenny Van Heer, Bella Alvear

Fun in the Sun

It's term 1 and that means we need to wear a hat when outside. **Please help your child remember to bring their hat everyday.**



Positive Psychology Prompts

1

FEEDBACK

Discuss: "What feedback did you receive at school today?"

2

WHAT WENT WELL?

Discuss: "What are three things that went well for you today? Why?"

3

EVEN BETTER IF?

Discuss: "Even better if...so that..."



ClassDojo

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 the Senior Community.

Senior Community Mentor Emails

Michelle Reid [SCR and team coach] mreid@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Jordan Harding [SCR] jharding@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Emily Kay [SCE] ekay@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Richard Harding [SCH] rharding@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Mia Marshall [SCM] mmarshall@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Leah Seychell [SCS] lseychell@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Patrick Torpy [SCT] ptorpy@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Wellbeing: Sharon Hynes shynes@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Tue/Thu/Fri

Wellbeing: Bridget Kirsch: bkirsch@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Mon/Tue/Wed

Cass Barbuto [LSO] cbarbuto@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Tue/Wed/Thu

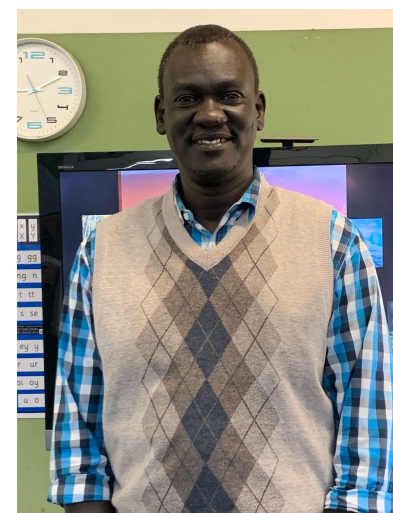
Erlina Suryadi [LSO] esuryadi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Makur Amour mamour@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Calling all Volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer for events or donate your expertise please contact us.

If you'd like to make a time to talk about your child's learning or to simply give some feedback, please don't hesitate to email your child's teacher to make an appointment.



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, 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!

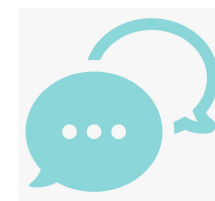


Bahar Yildirim
SPEECH
PATHOLOGIST



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!!!



Discovery and Encounter

It's going to be an exciting term in Seniors where students will explore the key understanding:
People use science to understand the world and solve challenges in regenerative ways.

Students will inquire into:

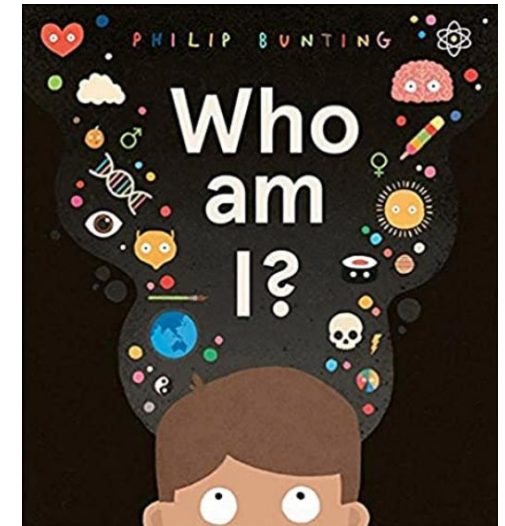
What does safety look like, sound like, feel like?

How does the brain influence choices?

How does safety affect me?

What is a mindset?

Students will be exploring the idea of self, using the text, **'Who Am I?'**, digging into the intricacies of the question, 'What makes me, me?' They will explore the amazing complexities of the brain and how neuroscience explains our behaviour. They will engage in workshops, rich dialogue sessions and self-directed projects to challenge their thinking and deepen their understanding.



Encounter (Previously Religious Education)

This year our Parish theme is:

'Living with a Trinitarian Heart – Spirit of New Frontiers. Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Will'

We will be drawing on this throughout the year within our prayers, masses, liturgies, lessons and celebrations.

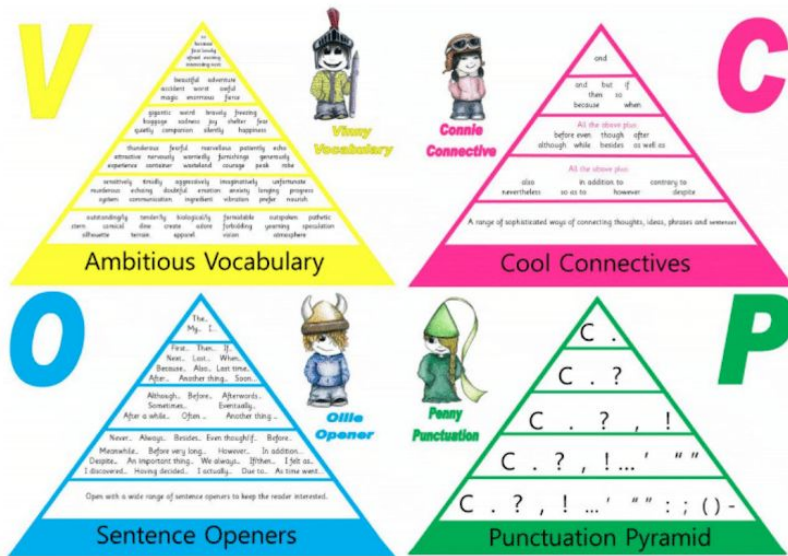
Throughout our Religious Education unit this term, the Senior Community will be exploring the rituals, routines and concepts which contribute to our Catholic Identity at Stella Maris. As we rediscover what it means to pray and meditate, we will make connections to our Stella Maris Gospel Values, finding how we can use them to make an impact in our world.

Leading us into the Season of Lent, students will be considering and deepening their understanding of what this time is about. We will also discuss how we can use this time to explore our relationships and make the right choices day to day, focusing on how we can explore the final steps of Jesus, making connections to examples of those who need our empathy and support in our world today.

Students will also work on 'Student Led Prayers'. Through this journey they will explore a range of topics and create a prayerful experience for their peers to encounter.

English

We are continuing to develop our community approach and will share learning across classes, giving opportunities for students to share their strengths, encourage one another and build relationships across the whole Senior Community. The students will continue to complete Big Write fortnightly, as well as regular Cold Writes for Assessment, using VCOP to support the development of their literacy skills. These resources will be available on classroom displays for students to reference during their learning times.



Students are also encouraged to extend their writing skills using their Writer's Notebook to plant 'seeds' (such as ideas and vocabulary, brainstorm, sketches or storyboards) to refer to in order to create self-inspired writing pieces. Additionally, there are a plethora of resources available online to inspire students, such as 'Pobble 365', which provide image stimulus for students.

Self Directed Learning is an opportunity for Senior students to use the skills taught during Reading and Writing Workshops, and Dialogue Groups, to complete tasks and consolidate their understanding of concepts. During these times, Mentors conduct Reading Groups and work with individual students to meet their SMART goals.

At the end of each day, students will have the opportunity to participate in Yarning Circles (class meetings), journal writing and a range of Social Emotional Learning tasks (SEL) to develop their Speaking and Listening skills.

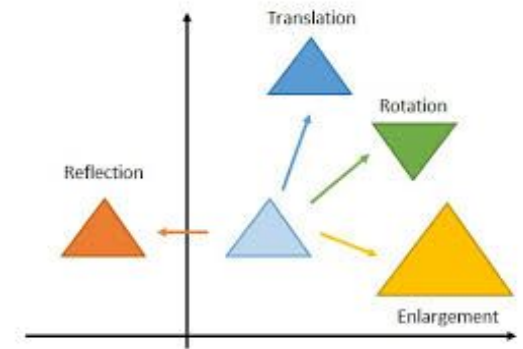
We look forward to how our learning will assist students in developing new perspectives as they are challenged to practice a growth mindset and to be critical thinkers.

Mathematics

In term 1, we will be exploring 2D Shapes and Angles, Transformation, Addition and Subtraction, and finally Chance and Data.

2D Shapes and Angles: Students will understand that shapes and objects have distinguishable characteristics and are named because of their properties. They will explore shapes and identify, name and use geometrical language to describe features of simple shapes and objects, such as regular polygons (including hexagon, pentagon, octagon), quadrilaterals and polyhedra. The students will estimate, measure and compare angles using degrees. The students will create and label acute, obtuse, reflex, straight and right angles accurately to the closest 5° using a protractor. Using their new knowledge, seniors will manipulate, identify and name isosceles, equilateral and scalene triangles.

Transformation: The students will describe translations, reflections and rotations of two dimensional shapes. They will also create tessellations using regular shapes with and without the use of technology. The students will also apply the enlargement transformation to familiar two dimensional shapes and explore the properties of the resulting image compared with the original. They will also investigate the history and the significance of mandalas and how transformation is used to create them. This will result in the students being able to design their own mandala that represents themselves. The students will also be investigating the Fibonacci numbers and their origins, as well as being able to explore the Fibonacci sequence in art and nature.



Addition and Subtraction unit: Students will consolidate the many strategies that they already know and be challenged on new strategies or a new range of problems that use whole numbers, decimals and fractions. The important element here is to focus on the strategies used, so that students choose the most efficient ones. They will learn about relational thinking and the meaning of the equivalence sign (the equals sign means 'the same as' rather than 'work it out').

Chance and Data: Students will list outcomes of chance experiments involving equally likely outcomes and represent probabilities of those outcomes using fractions. They will also compare observed frequencies across experiments with expected frequencies. They will pose questions to collect categorical or numerical data through observations or surveys. Using that data they will construct, interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs.

This year we are not using Mathletics as a home learning resource. Instead the Senior Community will send home some home learning tasks to focus on throughout the year. Mfacts121 is still available as a useful home learning tool and we encourage all students to learn their multiplication facts this year. Logins will be sent home with your children shortly.

Digital Technology

Cybersmart

With technology now a reality for teens, tweens and everything in-between, it's our responsibility to teach as well as guide our students to become cyber safe and cyber aware citizens. It is important that we continue to have an open dialogue as the data shows that children are becoming more digitally engaged than ever before.

The information below comes from our eSmart program to help you have a conversation around cybersafety with your child.



ZIP IT.

When you're online, always keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do!

Remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. Don't share personal information online; don't share your full name, photos, addresses, school information, telephone number, places you like to spend time.

Make sure you have set your privacy settings to restrict access to personal information.

When you use chat rooms or instant messenger, use a nickname instead of your real name. To stop people accessing your online accounts, always keep your passwords secret and change them regularly.

BLOCK IT.

Think about blocking people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.

Always delete emails from people you don't know, and don't open attachments from people you don't know. They might be nasty or contain a virus that can stop your computer working.

FLAG IT.

If you see anything that upsets you online or if someone asks to meet you, tell a parent or an adult you trust and they can help you.

If you want to talk to someone else, you can call Childline on 0800 1111. If a friend you have made online asks to meet you in the offline world, talk to your parents or a trusted adult about it. You should never meet up with someone you have met online without an adult going with you because it is dangerous. If someone you know is being nasty to someone online, speak to a parent or trusted adult about it.

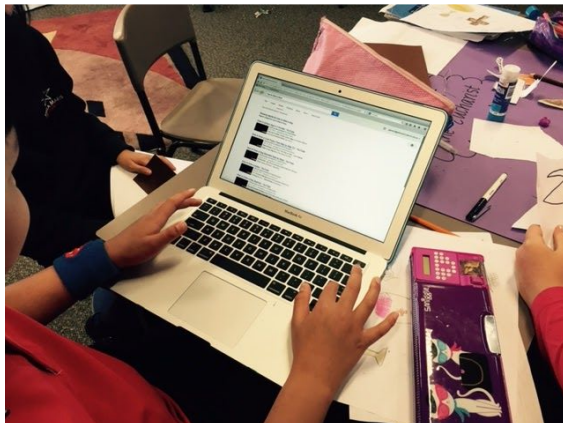
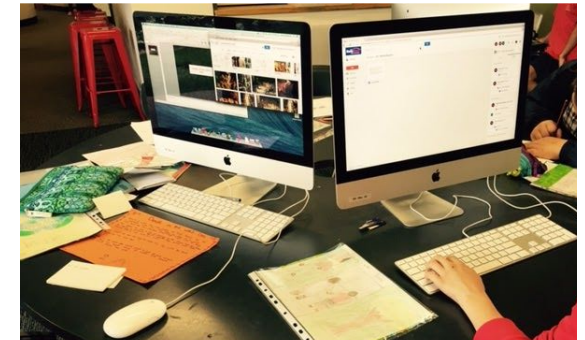
Bring Your Own Device Program

Remote learning from home during 2020 highlighted how important access to digital technologies is for our students. Stella Maris provides a limited number of shared devices in the senior area. Families may already own a device which could be utilised for learning at school.

Why have the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at Stella Maris?

We believe technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a world beyond our walls. We feel that access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network, and understanding how to safely and appropriately navigate and use them, are important in each student's education.

The goal of this BYOD program is to increase student access to digital tools and facilitate more access to technology-based information for all students. Many families have personally owned devices that can be used to help maximise access. When properly used, these technologies will promote educational excellence in the school by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Students who choose not to participate in the trial will continue to access school-owned resources as they currently do.



What is Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?

This simply means that families have the choice of sending privately owned devices to school with their children for use in learning at school. We recommend laptops or Chromebooks as they have proven most user friendly across different websites. We also recommend purchasing a cheap pair of headphones for use by your child so that they can complete their work effectively without interrupting or being interrupted by others (please ensure headphones have a cord and are not bluetooth, due to limited power points and charging opportunities). Devices and headphones owned by students are not shared with others and can be used in most areas of the curriculum in the place of books.

We believe that many devices are able to service current teaching practices, meet every child's needs, or match every family's budget. Families may already own a device which could be utilised for learning at school. To be part of the program, devices must be able to join the school wifi and use the school proxy internet filtering settings. All devices will use the school's wireless network as it provides a filtered access to appropriate educational sites on the internet.

For more information, please contact Mr Torpy.