

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term Two 2021

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

Hi Middle Community,

Middle Community staff would like to warmly welcome you back to Term 2 of 2021.

We are looking forward to **10** weeks of fun filled learning that will include:

- NAPLAN (For Year 3 students)
- Emmanuel 'Godspell' excursion
- Mothers' Day Stall and Colour Run
- Eucharist (For Year 4 students)



...and so much more!

At Stella Maris, our focus is on raising standards and meeting students at their own personal point of need. We aim to provide rich learning experiences that stimulate and engage our students, making them enthusiastic learners. We deliver our curriculum through a pedagogy of Positive Education, Gospel Values and a Growth Mindset. This enables students to get to know their own strengths and how they can utilise them to assist in their personal growth as learners and global citizens.

If you would 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 student's teacher.

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

Diary Dates

April 30th - Mother's Day Fun Run and stall
May 11th, 12th and 13th - NAPLAN (Year 3 Only)
May 14th and 15th - **Sacrament of Eucharist**
May 26th - Emmanuel "Godspell" Excursion
May 28th - Staff Only - Student Free Day
June 14th - Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
June 25th - Last Day of Term 2 - 1pm finish

Wellbeing

Let us begin by saying a **HUGE** thank you to you all for making Term 1 so positive; it's so great to be back face to face at school. Our Term 1 Program Support Meetings (PSGs) were a great opportunity to meet with families and celebrate growth and plan goals for Term 2.

Camp was a great success. All of the support from staff before camp to prepare students so that they knew what to expect during the camp definitely contributed to this success. It was great to get to know our students better and watch them step outside of their comfort zone, trying new things and working as a team.

As a Community we are working together to monitor our noise levels, keep our spaces clean and be positive bystanders. Together monitoring these things helps maximise learning time and ensure we are looking after the wellbeing of others.

CHECK IT OUT!

Looking for some **cool**, **calm** and **crazy** fun in your home? Check out GoNoodle at www.gonoodle.com. It's a great way to incorporate movement and mindfulness in the home and at school! Show off your groovy moves or get some tips on how to bring mindfulness to your family. Lots of fun for everyone!

NAPLAN

In May, students nationwide, in Years 3 and 5 will complete four tests covering Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy between 11-13 May 2021.

Parents are encouraged to reassure their children through calm conversation and simple advice, including:

- These are not pass or fail tests
- Be positive
- Challenge yourself to do your best
- There is nothing new to study. Tests are based on the curriculum expectations
- Keep normal routines - eat, exercise, socialise and sleep well

It is important to understand that **NAPLAN** is only a snapshot assessment of one day in one year of your child's ongoing education.

While NAPLAN aims to measure educational outcomes and create data for parents, school and government policy makers, there are many other important attributes that standardised tests cannot assess. It can not measure a student's engagement with a deep concept, that ability to collaborate, communicate constructively and generate solutions let alone real-world attributes or Gospel Values, Leadership, Respect and Kindness.

Year 3 students have been, and will be, experiencing different types of questions that they will be expected to answer during NAPLAN.

We ask that, where possible, Year 3 students attend school on these days.

Eucharist Reminder

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th May is an exciting day for many of our Year 4 students. It is the day where they will be celebrating the sacrament of **Eucharist**.

We have four sessions over the two days.

- **Friday 14th May @ 6.30pm**
- **Saturday 15th May @ 3.30pm, 5pm, 6.30pm.**

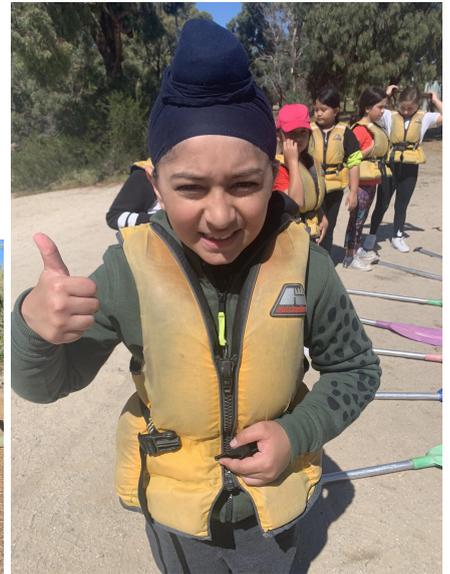
If you have any questions about Eucharist feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher via email or class dojo. Information will be sent home next week that will include your seating arrangements, and logistics for each sacrament. Reminder to return your completed personal Eucharist art canvas that we will display at the Mass Centre.



Camp 2021

Lady Northcote Camp was an awesome adventure! It was two days filled with fun, laughs and life-long memories. Students challenged themselves using Character Strengths and really embraced the experience. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the parents who gave up their time to help and all of those who offered to come. We were so blessed this year.

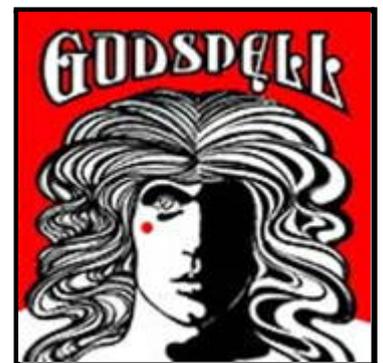




We hope you enjoyed the Camp photo video that was sent out via Dojo!

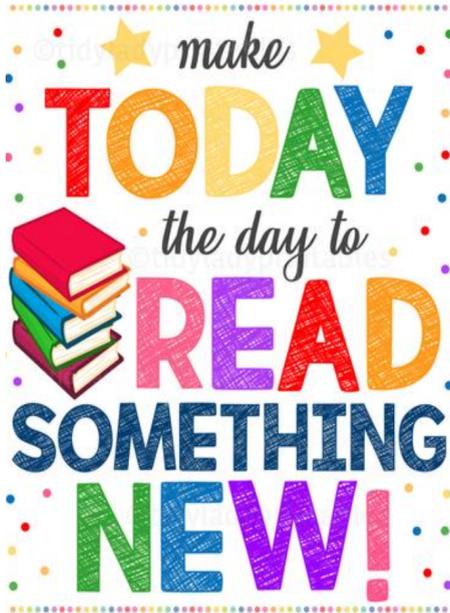
Godspell

Emmanuel College have invited our Year 3s and 4s to watch their own production of 'Godspell' on **26th May**. Please make sure permission slips are returned to school. Departure time is 10.30am (a change to the time on the notes). This should be an exciting excursion and a great way to see a story told through dance, song and acting.



English

Reading



In line with the Reading expectations at Stella Maris, we will be continuing to teach the skills required to become a fluent reader. In small, focus groups, teachers will work on developing the three parts of the reading process:

Within the Text - literal understand of what is written in the text, improving fluency, summarising, identifying purpose and genre

Beyond the Text - predicting, making connections with personal; experience, inferring what is implied within the text

About the Text - analysing the text and noticing aspects of the writer's craft, such as what the writer does to keep us interested, thinking critically about the text

Spelling

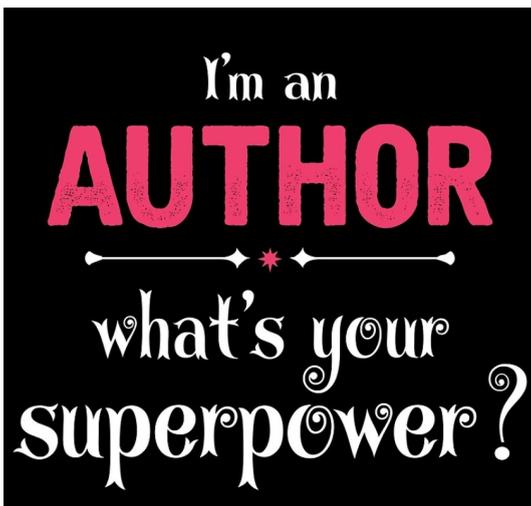
Spelling has continued to be a focus in the Middle Community and we encourage students to continue to share new vocabulary and weekly spelling patterns at home. This is a way to teach common sound and letter patterns. Students choose a range of words (from simple to complex) to meet different needs. They then choose a fun activity, such a Rainbow Words or Word Data, each day to practise and learn the chosen words.

Writing

This term students will be looking at persuasive writing and are encouraged to look out for persuasive techniques in everyday life, such as TV commercials and newspaper articles. Students will also be exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, with a focus on 'story' and how and why people write stories. We will continue to develop the writing process, with a focus on viewing self as an author and students will be creating their own stories.

Big Write will continue this term and will give teachers the opportunity to track progress and plan for the 'next steps' in your child's learning journey.

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.



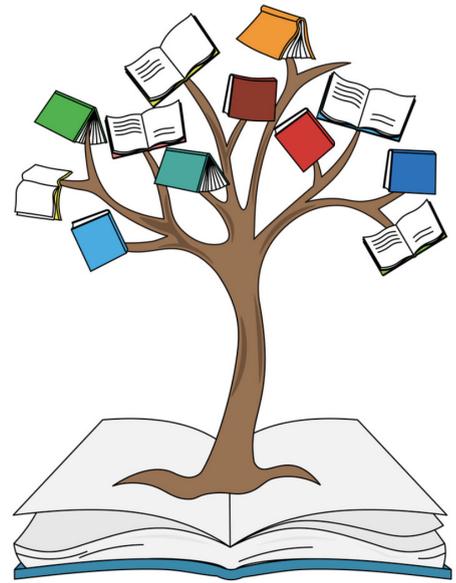
Discovery

In Term 2, our Discovery focus will be around 'Story'. The Key Understanding 'People use Science to understand the world and solve challenges in regenerative ways' will allow students to explore where a story comes from or how it starts. We will also be looking into how or why we communicate stories. Students will be exploring different modes of how to tell or share a story; for example; telling a story through dance, drama, visual and media arts, wordless texts and music. We will be interviewing authors and asking questions about the process behind creating a story.

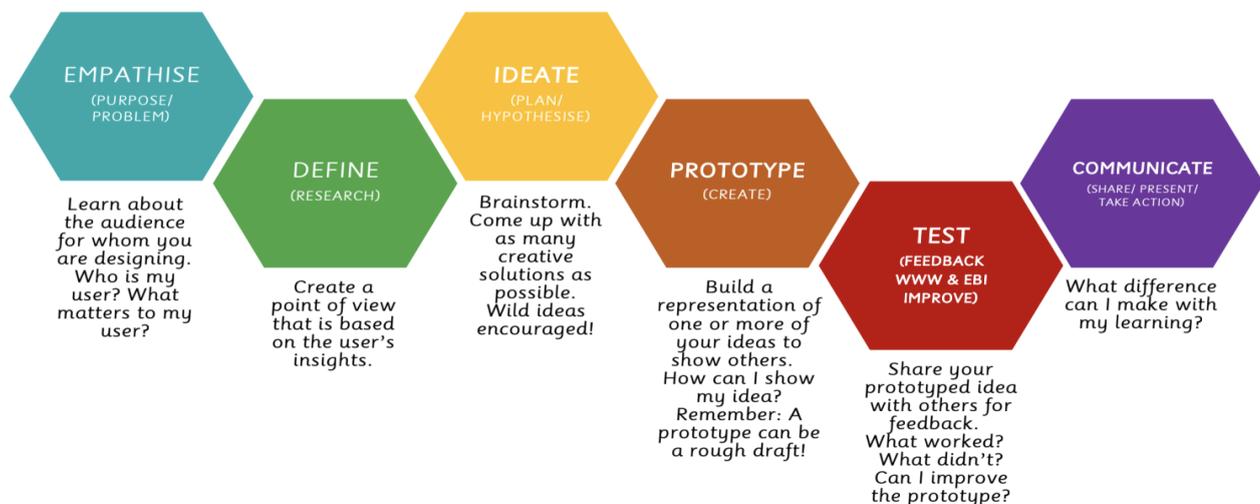
The Key questions we will consider are:

- What is a story?
- How do we communicate our stories?
- Why do we communicate our stories?
- Where do stories come from?

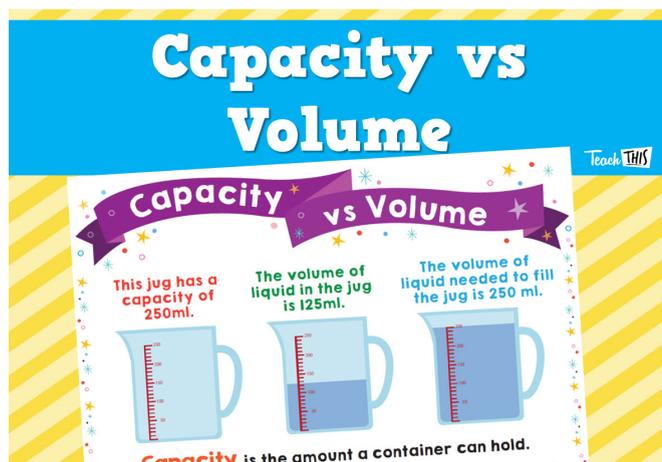
Students will be using the design process to create a story using a seed that inspires them, and inquire into the process of creating a story. Towards the end of the term, students will communicate and share their stories in a mode of their choice.



THE DESIGN PROCESS



Maths



Our *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.

Our next unit will be *2 Dimensional Shapes and Symmetry*. Students will consolidate their knowledge of 2D shapes, use transformation language and explore symmetry within our environment.



Following on from this will be a *Multiplication and Division* unit. We will be developing and using efficient mental and written strategies to represent and solve problems. The focus will be on developing multiplicative thinking (making connections with and between numbers).

Maths Workshops

The focus in maths workshops this term is *Conceptual Place Value*. Students will be working at their point of need to increment and decrement by 10s, 100s or 1000s. Our more confident mathematicians will be developing their skills to compare and order fractions and decimals.

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.

HOME LEARNING

Essential Assessment is a new resource we have at Stella Maris. Students can now access it at home to work on their maths skills. This program allows students to access My Numeracy activities that develop their skills on their current point of need. They can also use Sunset Maths to practice their mathematical skills with games and activities.

The **School Code** for Essential Assessment login is: **VIC637004** students use their name and school password. If your child is not sure what this is please contact their teacher.

EssentialAssessment
Assessment and Curriculum made easy
Australian Curriculum • NSW Syllabus • Victorian Curriculum

