

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term Four 2021

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

We Are **ALMOST** Back!

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are in our final term of what has been another unprecedented year. We hope to be back to 'onsite learning' soon yet here I am writing this about finishing the year and transitioning to 2022!

I would like to commend students, staff and families for their amazing commitment, adaptability and resilience to all that 2021 had to offer.

Now, take a deep breath and we will navigate this term together.

Date for this term (so far), include:

- **Monday 1st November** - School Closure
- **Tuesday 2nd November** - Melbourne Cup (School Closed)
- **Friday 19th November** - School Closure Day
- **Friday 10th December** - Whole School Transition: Learning Area with new teachers
- **Monday 13th December** - Reports sent home
- **Wednesday 15th December** - Last day of 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:

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



Online Learning Highlights

We are so proud of how well Middle Community and families responded to online learning again this year. There were too many highs to mention but I will try to capture a few:

- Laughter
- Fun
- Learning
- Sharing my love of candles - Miss Timmins Hughes
- **Feedback**
- Quizzes
- *Finishing second in the Battle of the Books Reading Challenge!*
- Dojo messages
- Small Groups
- Whole class teaching
- **Foofy Day!**
- MCF's Guess the Baby Quiz!
- **Pyjama Days**
- TEACHERS GLITCHING
- Students Glitching
- *Dress up days - MCA*
- **Happy birthdays**
- Feast Day
- Flipgrids
- Bring your pets along
- MCA'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY DANCE ALONGS TO THE DJ PANDA RAP SONG
- MCH's fun class activities
- Bring your brothers and sister along
- More feedback
- Origami lessons in MCC
- LSO meets
- *Chats with the girls*
- **New babies**
- Dance parties
- Open Mics
- Talent Shows
- Emails with 'The Ladies'
- Funny roll calls
- MCS's Kahoot quizzes
- RUNNING DOWN THE STAIRS TO GET PARCELS FROM THE POSTIE DURING MEETINGS
- Bring your breakfast
- **THANKFUL THURSDAYS**
- Kids teaching Karate, Taekwondo, Gymnastics, Dancing and Origami in MCJ
- MCJ Meeting my Dad and asking him how old he is

Wellbeing Adjustments



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to Term 4! The last one for the year and my what a busy term it will be! Thank you for all your support during remote learning; we couldn't do what we do without you. We are about to, once again, work with a changing situation as we transition from remote learning back to face to face learning in Term 4.

In these interesting times, we have continued to make adjustments in new and innovative ways to continue to support the needs of our students. Our work in fourth term will include planning for a successful transition for your child back to onsite and then to the next year level.

Staff updates:

Julia Cascone is now on maternity leave. She has been absolutely amazing in her role as Wellbeing Adjustments Leader, we will miss her but she will be back! We wish her all the best on the safe arrival of bubs.

Please welcome **Kylie Guarnaccia** to the Middles team as Wellbeing Adjustment Coach. Kylie will continue in her role as maths leader and work alongside Kim Petrie to support Wellbeing Adjustments in Middles and to lead the team across the school. Kylie's email is: kguarnaccia@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Welcome back Akuol Diing! We are delighted to have Akuol back from maternity leave. Akuol will be working alongside our wonderful Learning Support Officers in the Middles Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Akuol's email is: adiing@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

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 2022, 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 Akuol, Elaine, Kim Ellis and Sana, along with Kylie and Kim have already begun supporting this process with many of our students. We will be 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, Kylie or Kim. We are always here to help!

Go Gently,
Wellbeing Adjustments Team

Discovery

During Term 4, students will be exploring the key understanding, **'People use science to understand the world and solve challenges in regenerative ways.'**

Our **Lines of Inquiry** (Statements or questions that will help guide the unit and unpack the Key Understanding) will be split into two blocks over the term as we transition from online to face to face learning.

Weeks 1-5

Will focus on how we can use art to express our thoughts, feelings, tell a story or promote a message This will link to the Art Show (see below) and will encourage students to look at the message behind their art and the purpose for creating it.

'The story behind the story'.

Week 6-10

In the second half of the term, Middles will investigate the many Countries/Places of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia, and the custodial responsibility they have for Country/Place, as well as how this influences views about sustainability. Students will unpack:

What is Country?

Investigating how the Australian continent was (and still is) divided into many Aboriginal Countries and Torres Strait Islander Places, drawing on languages maps, geographical features

What is the importance of Country?

Similarities and differences in individuals' and groups' feelings and perceptions about places, and how they influence views about the protection of these places

How do we look after Country?

Investigating how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of living were adapted to the resources of their Country/Place.



Art Festival

This is a wonderful opportunity to use the Arts to connect and support the Point Cook community. COVID restrictions have impacted business, families and the community and we are using 'regenerative thinking' to unite our community and celebrate through the Arts. The Purpose of the Art Show is to:

- Celebrate student learning, express, ideas, creativity and innovation through the Arts
- Development of student creativity, skills and ability to express using art using Design Thinking and process
- Using art as a platform to empower students to communicate a message, social justice action by promoting awareness, change of thinking and behaviour and fundraising towards a cause
- Building partnership and community where they will display the student art and we will visit these shops and businesses within and around Point Cook.
- Unite together as a school community and provide support for our local community and businesses

Students will be working on developing the 'curated packages' for each art theme and using our **Discovery Process**. Each art piece will demonstrate a message or story linked to the learning so that we build awareness of an issue, provoke or regenerate thinking. It will also allow for students to link their message to raise awareness or take action towards a cause. Selected art pieces will also be sold to raise funds for organisations selected by our students - this will replace the annual Stella Maris Christmas Market (Stellazon in 2020).

Art pieces made by the students will be sold via a QQR link from the **22nd of November to the 8th of December** or until all items are sold out. More information about items for sale to follow in the next few weeks.

Families will be given a map highlighting the location of the Stella Maris art around Point Cook and, as you walk and shop around the various locations, you will see either large communal or individual art pieces created by your child. The **QR Code** on each art piece will link to the Stella Maris "It starts with a seed..." website that students are also developing which includes their learning, thinking, creative process and work.

Please note that your child's artwork and creative thinking will be represented either as a large art piece created as a community, an individual art piece, art to be sold to raise funds for a social justice cause, and/or included within the website.



Discovery Encounter

In Encounter this term, Middles will be getting curious about the Key Understanding, **'Understanding our Faith identity regenerates us to discover who we are, the world around us and take action'**.

The term will be unbroken into two parts:

Week 1-5

How can we use Art to promote change? (Change)

How can we model our actions inspired by Jesus? (Responsibility)

Week 6-10

What is deep listening?

How do we listen deeply to ourselves and our world?

How does our faith identity impact our connection to Country? - look at different scriptures that connect to nature and the environment.

ADVENT

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.



English

Throughout Term 4, students will be continuing to explore a variety of different genres of literature. They will learn the format, features and structure for writing the following genres of texts: procedural texts, biographies, letters and poetry.

Writing

Students will be writing their own procedural texts about their art piece that is connected to our current Discovery theme of 'Habitat Heros'. They will be using the writing process to draft, edit and uplevel these procedural texts. Further along, students will then be writing a biography about an artist that gave them inspiration for their art piece.

Reading

This term we will be continuing to develop strategies for reading through our Discovery topic. Students will be taught the reading strategies of analysing and critiquing. They will be applying and practicing these skills when having to compare different examples of procedural texts. Other reading strategies will be covered will include;

- Clarifying
- Inference
- Summarise
- Evaluate

S.M.A.R.T SPELLING

S

Say
Say the word
out loud.

M

Meaning
Say the word in
a sentence.

A

Analyse
Break the word up
into syllables, letters
and sounds.

R

Remember
Which part of the
word do you have to
remember.

T

Teach
Teach it to me
by spelling it aloud.

SMART Spelling

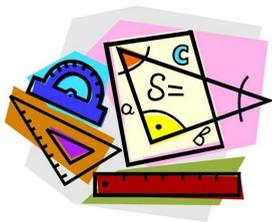
Spelling has continued to be a focus in the Middle Community and we encourage students to continue to share new vocabulary and weekly spelling patterns at home. This is a way to teach common sound and letter patterns. Students choose a range of words (from simple to complex) to meet different needs.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

Maths



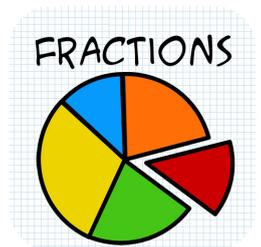
A **Location** unit is going to kick start Term 4 for us in Middles. Students will be exploring different features of mapping, including grid references, compass points and map scales. They will practice giving and following directions to get to different locations. Students will learn to interpret information from reading maps, including the map of Australia. They will enjoy exploring treasure maps and creating their own maps too!

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. They will also practice recalling multiplication facts of up to 10 X 10 and related division facts too. Students will understand that they can use their multiplication knowledge to answer division equations.



We will then follow this with our unit of **Angles**. Students will begin by exploring the features of a right angle and identifying angles that are bigger or smaller than a right angle. Students will explore the term 'degrees' and will locate angles in our real life environment. They will learn about other types of angles including the acute, reflex, obtuse and straight angles.

Our final unit of this semester is **Fractions and Decimals**, students will explore different representations of fractions and investigate the relationship of fractions and decimals. They will learn to recognise that the place value system can be extended to tenths and hundredths. Students will explore equivalent fractions, counting by fractions and locating fractions on a number line.



Math Workshops will commence when we return to onsite learning, to further develop students' understanding of number.

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.

Essential Assessment is another fantastic resource that students are strongly encouraged to use at home, as it is based around every child's individual needs. **Sunset Maths** is a game within the Essential Assessment website which the students really enjoy too! Please send your teacher a message if your child doesn't have their login details!

<https://www.essentialassessment.com.au/>