

Senior Community Learning Newsletter

Term 4 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 most exciting term of the year! This is a great time to be in Year 5 or Year 6. It's a chance for the Year 5s to look ahead to the footprints they will be making as they step into leadership roles for Year 6. It's also an exciting time for Year 6s who get to reflect on the footprints they've made and look forward to their next adventure as Year 7s.

First and foremost the senior mentors would like to express their appreciation to the students and parents of our Stella Senior community for the way they handled remote learning during this truly challenging time. Having not one but two lockdowns to contend with, our students took it in their stride and got on with the job at hand. Many seniors exhibited expert behaviours and showcased what brilliant role models they can be for the rest of the school community. All the senior mentors have been thoroughly impressed with the level of resilience shown during the last term of remote learning. Let's make this final term a worthy one to remember!



A very big and well deserved congratulations to our **Starts with a Seed** winner, Heidi Utomo who designed a wonderfully creative and very appropriate logo for the upcoming Art show. The Art show will be something new and exciting for the Stella community as nothing like this has been attempted before. Stay tuned for more updates as we progress through the term.

Coming up in Term 4:

- **Monday 1st November** - School Closure
- **Tuesday 2nd November** - Melbourne Cup (School Closed)
- **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. This term will go faster than you realise and we'll be celebrating Christmas before we know it! Look out for news about rites of passage and the announcement of 2022 student leaders.

Student leaders of 2021

Community Partnership Leaders: Zoe Smith and Sienna Solarino

Regeneration Leaders: Nicolo Cimadoro and Heidi Utomo

Wellbeing Leaders: Chelsea Dela Cruz and Isaac Dennis

Communication & Information: Riya Dutta and Maya Robinson

Arts Leaders: Jeriel Gregorio and Sarah Gongora-Rodriguez

Sport Leaders: Lenny Van Heer and Bella Alvear

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..."



[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

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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.

Wellbeing

Welcome back to Term 4! We are all very excited to be returning to on-site learning in the near future. Thank you to all families who took part in our Term 3 Program Support Group (PSG) meetings and celebrated the growth made through personalised goals. These goals will continue to be targeted in Term 4.

Throughout this term we will be focusing on a variety of areas including social connection and preparing for transition to high school! We can't believe we will be shortly saying goodbye to our Year 6 students and they head off to high school!

Year 7 Transition Resources:

- Ask your child how they are feeling about high school, what are they excited about, what has them worried?
- This link has a series of common scenarios your child may experience at high school You might like to read them together and chat about what choices they could make. [Kids HelpLine Transition](#).

Returning to On-site Learning:

- Maggie Dent - [Schools key to our kids' recovery: Why the 3 Cs count before grades](#)
- [Optimistic October](#) - Action for Happiness; a calendar full of ideas to help you set meaningful goals and find new perspectives on challenges you're facing.



Discovery and Encounter

This term, our Discovery and Encounter unit will be enriched with the upcoming event of our Stella Maris Art Festival.

When: 22nd November - 28th November (Pop Up Art Exhibition) 22nd - 1st Dec around Point Cook Community, shops and businesses

Purpose of the Art Festival

Why: This is a wonderful opportunity to use the Arts to connect and support the Point Cook community. Covid restrictions have impacted businesses, families and the whole community. We at Stella Maris are using 'regenerative thinking' to unite our community through the Arts.

Our goals are to:

- Celebrate student learning and express ideas, creativity and innovation through the Arts
- Develop student creativity, skills and ability, using the design process
- Use art as a platform to empower students to communicate a message and social justice action by promoting awareness, change people's thinking and behaviour and fundraise towards a cause
- Build partnership with the community, displaying student art works where the community is visiting shops and businesses within and around Point Cook.
- Unite together as a school community and provide support for our local community and businesses

Throughout this unit, our students will be working in groups following our Discovery Process to develop curated packages which will highlight the amazing art pieces our school community has created over the past two years.

What is a curated package?

Students will be working on developing the curated packages for each art theme using our Discovery Process. 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 to be sold to raise funds for a social justice cause, and/or included within the website. Details of the website will come in the next few weeks.

The packages our students will develop will draw on the Catholic Social Justice Principles and will create a deeper insight to the thinking and messages behind the piece; creating awareness, provocations, regenerating thinking or raising money for local and global issues.

Students will be exploring and engaging in different methods of communicating, experimenting with a range of ways to use their voices to inspire change. It will also allow for students to link their message to raise awareness or take action towards a cause.

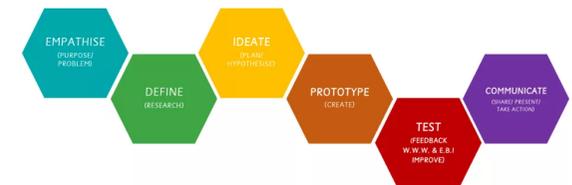
Selected art pieces will also be sold to raise funds for organisations selected by our students. This will replace the annual Stella Maris Christmas Market (Stellazon in 2020). Art pieces made by the students will be sold via a QQR link from the **22nd of November to the 8th of December** or until all items are sold out. More information about items for sale to follow in the next few weeks.

Students will explore the following lines of inquiry:

- What is art? (form)
- How is art used as a way to communicate stories and promote regenerative practise in the world? (function)
- How do we use art to express our thoughts and feelings, tell a story or promote a message? (perspective)

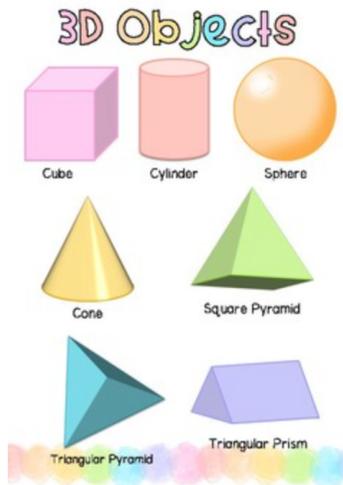
As mentioned above, students will explore how they can develop a Social Justice Action to help communicate their intended messages. This includes exploring the following Encounter lines of Inquiry:

- How can we use art to promote change? (change)
- How can we model our actions inspired by Jesus? (responsibility)
- How does art help us connect with others? (connection) – connection with community



We are excited about the endless possibilities and student-led discussions we are sure to unpack throughout the term and cannot wait for you to see the outcome of all their hard work!

paid for, designing celebration cards using different areas and playing around with different combinations of shapes to see how area and perimeter operate together.



3D Objects: The students will connect three-dimensional objects with their nets and other two-dimensional representations. They will also be constructing simple prisms and pyramids. The students will be encouraged to expand their vocabulary when describing the properties of 3D objects.

Algebra: The students will create sequences involving whole numbers, fractions and decimals and describe the rule to create each sequence. They will also explore the use of brackets and order of operations to write number sentences.

Multiplicative Thinking: To be able to work flexibly and efficiently with an extended range of numbers as well as strategies using multiplication and division.

RESOURCES

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

The **School Code** for their Essential Assessment login is: **VIC637004**

Students' logins and passwords are the same as their school logins and passwords.

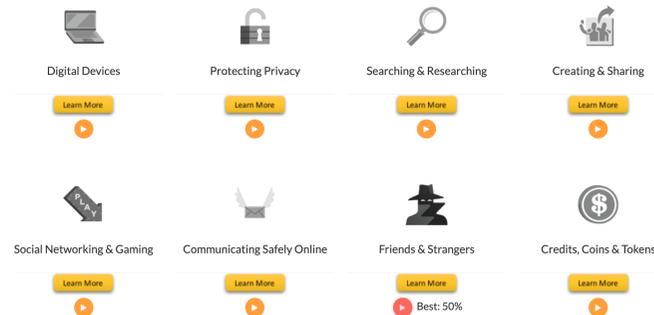
We encourage students to access **MFacts**, an online learning tool, at home. It is a strategy based approach to learning multiplication, where the learning intention is for students to fully understand the concept of multiplication, rather than just rote learning the facts. Please help your child to see that multiplication is 'groups of', such as 8 groups of 6 is 48. 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/>

Digital Technology School Devices

As we transition back to school based learning, this is a reminder to please bring back any digital devices that have been loaned out so that we can get our BYO program back up and running, and learning happening as soon as possible.

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.



Senior students have now had a chance to begin exploring the eSmart Digital Licence online program. They can log in to their digital licence at any time (at school during self-directed learning or at home) and learn about the appropriate ways to use technology, act online or what to do when something goes wrong digitally. They can complete any module in any order. Feel free to have a look through the modules with them if you want to see how digital safety is taught, or to pick up some tips on how to discuss digital safety with your child. Simply head to <https://www.digitallicence.com.au/>

Bring Your Own Device Program

Remote learning from home during 2021 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.



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). **Please name all headphones and talk to your child about storing them correctly so that they do not go missing.** 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.