

Stella Maris

Term 1 2022

FOUNDATION COMMUNITY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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 TO TERM ONE!

How exciting to be back at school for 2022. Our first week of school consisted of four days which is something that has never happened at Stella Maris before! The children were able to show stamina in that first week! We are amazed at how quick the students have been able to follow the morning and afternoon routines.

We are looking forward to building strong partnerships with you on their learning journey. We thank you for preparing them for this exciting time. The independence that the children are showing at such an early stage of the year is amazing! We look forward to watching them grow as learners and individuals at Stella Maris.

The following is an overview of the learning that will happen this term and some important information and notices.



Foundation Staff

Jane Tinker
Learning Support Officer

Simone Norman
GREEN GROUP Teacher
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Alex Doran
RED GROUP Teacher
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Viv Taylor
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Lillian Valencia
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Leah Morrow
Foundation COACH
GOLD GROUP Teacher
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Cass Barbuto
Learning Support Officer

Ruth Stanley
GOLD GROUP Teacher
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VIVIENNE TAYLOR- WELLBEING ADJUSTMENT COACH



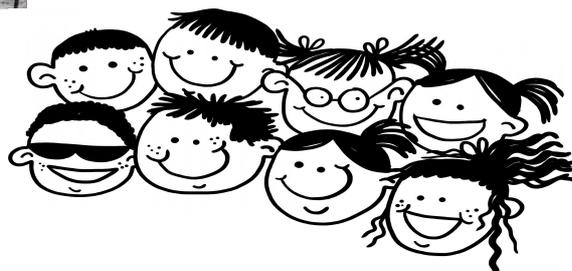
As the Foundation Community Learning Adjustments Coach, my role is to support staff, students and their families to make sure everyone is able to access learning and experience success. You will see me in the Foundation Community space supporting your children and their teachers to ensure the relationship between social and emotional wellbeing and learning is celebrated.

Viv Taylor (Working days: Monday-Thursday)
vtaylor@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

English as an Additional Language (EAL) SUPPORT TEACHER



Hi my name is Lorna Beveridge. I will be supporting Foundation children who are developing their confidence to communicate in English; helping to extend vocabulary and sentence grammar. We'll do this through talk, songs, games and books.



ALLIED HEALTH @Stella

This year the Learning Adjustment Coaches (LACs) 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 Learning Adjustment Coach (LAC).



Nathan Missen
PSYCHOLOGIST

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!



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!!!



Bahar Yildirim
SPEECH
PATHOLOGIST

ENGLISH

We have begun the year with a heavy focus on teaching about the alphabet, including recognition of letters by name and their order. Alongside this, students will be learning to write using correct letter formation and pencil grip. Students will also be involved in activities that will help them develop their pre reading and early reading skills, including repeating rhymes, hearing sounds, identifying letters, learning to point to one word at a time and locating words through the use of poems, songs and stories.



Crocodile Snap

Crocodile, Crocodile, Crocodile Snap,
Turn it around and lay it on its back.



Crawl right up,
Come right back,
Turn it to the left,
Turn it to the right
Now I'm ready,
To start to write.



We will work to develop the skills of a good speaker and listener through daily interactions with each other, focusing on eye contact, voice projection, confidence and questioning skills. Structures will be set up to enable students to participate in our literacy sessions effectively, work cooperatively in small groups, share resources and complete tasks independently. Above all, the children will be encouraged to develop a positive attitude when they attempt to read and write.

THRASS- TEACHING HANDWRITING READING AND SPELLING SKILLS

THRASS is a tool for teaching learners about the letters, speech sounds and spelling choices of English. Our initial focus is teaching the alphabet, including recognition of letters and their order.

MATHEMATICS

During Term 1 the focus for Mathematics learning in the Foundation Community will include number, data, time and pattern. There will be a strong focus throughout the term on developing students' sense of number. This includes orally counting forwards and backwards, initially in the ranges 1-10, 1-30 and beyond. We will be recording numbers and making collections of various quantities within these ranges. Developing these basic skills early, will lay the foundation for all mathematics learning to come.

We have started the year with a focus on counting. The children will develop skills such as pointing to each object as they count and match numerals, words and collections. As the term progresses the students will be involved in workshop style sessions that will help to target their specific needs in number, including recording numerals

We will also be exploring how we can sort data and represent it in different ways. Students have been introduced to different ways of recording their thinking using diagrams, words and numbers.

We will then move into learning about time. Students will develop an understanding of language such as 'before' and 'after' and work towards sequencing their day from morning to night. At home, you could support this learning by practising reciting the days of the week and talking about months and seasons.

In finishing this term the students will begin learning about pattern by searching for and identifying patterns in our environment. They will use a variety of materials to copy, create and extend patterns.



We look forward to working with you to develop your child's learning in mathematics.

DISCOVERY & ENCOUNTER

Over the course of the year each member of the Foundation Community will inquire into the key understanding:

Wisdom shapes our future and comes from having eyes wide open to the past and present.

The Foundation Community will commence the year establishing routines to set up for successful learning. This unit will encourage students to develop independence and establish the 'Ways of Working' in the Foundation Community and build a culture of learning together.

They will become emotional and social scientists that will allow them to be positive community members. Students will learn how to participate in an environment that builds a culture for learning. Through this, students will discover the importances of the Zones of Regulation and how this can be applied to self and others. They will be exposed to the concept of 'Hope' through an open mind, open heart and open will.

The Foundation community will also be involved in investigations. Students will be engaging in activities and experiences that aim to develop their social, emotional and oral language skills. During this time students will also be developing their fine motor and gross motor skills.



Students will also explore building relationships with the Catholic Community. We will focus on the ritual and special actions used during prayer time as well as the special symbols and objects used to set up a prayer space. We will engage in daily Meditation where we will learn how to be still and explore the significance of a Sacred Space. Students will begin to understand the significance of Jesus and make connections between the Gospel messages and their life.

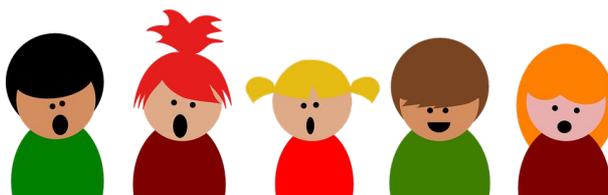
TIMETABLE

Foundation students will have a one hour PE lesson with our PE teachers, Simon and Job. For Art lessons with Nicole and Mystique, children will need to have their art smock. This will remain at school. Digital Technology classes are with Kate where children will learn how to use the chromebooks to develop their technology skills. Library bags have already been supplied to you. Thank you to all parents who have returned their library bags with the requested stationery supplies. Children will use these bags when borrowing from the library. Library bags will need to be returned to school each week on Tuesday with the borrowed book inside it, in order to borrow a new book.

OUR AWESOME FOUNDATIONS



Singing with Ms Natalie happens every Friday afternoon as a whole Foundation Community!



Birthdays

At the end of each month on a Friday afternoon we gather as a whole community to celebrate birthdays! Each child is given a certificate, brag tag and a lollipop.

These are our JANUARY BABIES!



GENERAL INFORMATION

8.50am Prayer Begins

Your school day begins with prayer at 8:50 each day and is an important part of our daily routine. Therefore, it is essential that children be at school on time ready to participate in prayer each day.

School Rules

Children have been learning the language of our school rules, what they are and what they mean. You will find them displayed in our learning spaces.

1. Follow Instructions
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
3. Speak appropriately
4. Listen to the speaker
5. Move Safely
6. Take care of all property

Gospel Values

These are the Gospel Values that guide us and link to our Catholic Identity at Stella Maris.

- Commitment
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Creativity
- Cooperation
- Integrity
- Respect
- Independence

Wednesdays of Term 1

A reminder that Wednesdays will continue to be 'rest days' until week 8 of Term 1. Children will begin attending school full time from Monday 14th March.

Health Checks

The Primary School nurse will visit Stella Maris to administer free screening health checks for our Foundation students. Date to be advised

Foundation Community Learning Area

The Foundation community learning area is a shared learning space. This means that children sometimes work outside their learning area (classroom) and that evidence of learning may be displayed in this 'common learning space.'

Lost Property

A clothes rack is placed within the community. Please check it if you notice your child has misplaced any items. To ensure hats, jumpers, drink bottles, lunch boxes and even shoes are returned to their rightful owner, please name all items clearly.

Birthdays

If you would like to share something for your child's birthday, a small, individually wrapped treat such as a lollipop would be appropriate. Being mindful of other children's allergies we do not encourage sharing of chocolates or cakes.

Learning Support

Cass, Jane and Mamta have been allocated as the Foundation Community Learning Support Officers. They will work closely with the teachers, assisting to provide the children with learning customised to needs.

Tuckshop

Lunch order days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunches will be delivered in time for students to eat at 1:30pm. Please also provide your child with a morning snack on days they have a lunch order. Lunches are ordered via QKR app

Stationery Supplies

Thank you to those who have sent the requested supplies to school. We ask that you please bring in these stationery supplies to school if you have not already done so.

Medical Issues

Please see your child's teacher if information regarding anaphylaxis, asthma or any other medical issue needs updating.

Eating Time

We encourage all children to eat their brain food at around 10 a.m. each day. It has become part of our morning routine to place our brain food on their table along with their water bottles. Eating time begins at 11:00 – until 11:10a.m. At this time we encourage your child to eat their 'main food' and any yoghurts. We eat again at 1:30-1:40 p.m. and children will possibly finish what is in their lunchbox.

If you recognise your child takes a long time to eat, perhaps you could practice this at home by encouraging them to eat without being distracted and to eat more quickly.