

Middle Community Learning Newsletter

Term One 2022

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 back to 2022 and an exciting new year ahead!

Middle Community consists of 8 classes. We have some new faces joining our Middles Team this year and many old faces you may already be familiar with.

Below are our fantastic team, who you will see out and about in the community. Feel free to approach any of us to help you as you settle into school life once again.

This year, the Middle Community consists of:



Rachael Foley

(MCF) Middle Community Coach
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Mystique Whitehill

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Ashlea

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Jordan Harding

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Leah Seychell

(MCZ)
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Amanda Ferrarese

(MCA)
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Sana Haider

Learning Support Officer
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Jenn Gray

Learning Support Officer
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Mary Luatua

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Elaine Donald

Learning Support Officer
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Kylie Guarnaccia

Learning Adjustment Coach
Whole School & Middles
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Kim Petrie

Learning Adjustment Coach
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Sebastian Kemmerer (MCS)
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Jennifer Aguilar (MCJ)
jaguilar@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Middle Community Team 2022



Wominjeka is the Woivurung word for welcome!

Learning Adjustments Team

Welcome Everyone,

We are the Learning Adjustment Coaches in the Middle Community.
 We look forward to supporting all children and their families throughout the year.

We will work closely with class teachers to support students with their social, emotional and academic learning needs. Although we will do our best to work with the whole community, it's much more manageable and consistent for us to work with specific classes. Kylie will be working closely with and manage PSG's for **MCH, MCT, MCL, MCA** and Kim will be working closely with and manage PSGs for **MCS, MCJ, MCF, MCZ**.

Just a reminder PSGs will be held during weeks 8 & 9 of each term for relevant families

Kylie & Kim

Staff updates:

As you know in Term 4 we welcomed Kylie Guarnaccia as our school Learning Adjustment Leader (previously known as Wellbeing Leader). Kylie has transitioned from her role as Maths Leader and is now the Learning Adjustments Leader in Middles.

Learning Support Officers (LSO'S)

Akuol Diing has joined the Senior Community team this year.
 We are delighted to welcome Jenn Gray to the team. Jenn will be working alongside Elaine Donald (Ms Donald) and Sana Haider.



Kim Petrie
 Tuesday-Friday
kpetrie@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au



Kylie Guarnaccia
 Monday-Thursday
kguarnaccia@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

ALLIED HEALTH @ Stella

This year the Learning Adjustments Coaches will continue to 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.

Nathan Missen
PSYCHOLOGIST



Hello all,

My name is Nathan Missen, and I am the psychologist for Stella Maris. 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 in 2015, and 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 a regenerative year, with a focus on helping children reconnect to the school community

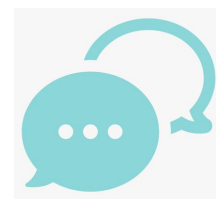


Bahar Yildirim
SPEECH
PATHOLOGIST



Hello! My name is Mrs. Bahar and I will continue to be your Speech Pathologist at the wonderful Stella Maris community. I have been a Speech Pathologist for 18 years and love working with students and teachers. I enjoy exploring the outdoors, traveling, 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!!!



Keeping In Touch

Please note, any teacher may be contacted using their initial and last name followed by @stellamaris.catholic.edu.au, e.g. **Rachael Foley** rfoley@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au
Our team looks forward to an exciting year of learning, growth and progress, not to mention Camp! We hope that we can journey together through your child's education in the Middle Community.
If you would like to volunteer, make time to talk about your student's learning or to simply give some feedback; please don't hesitate to email your child's teacher.

Diary Dates

February 25th - Set up for Family Fun Day - 1pm finish for students
February 26th - Family Fun Day
March 11th - Student Free Day
March 14th - Labour Day - School Closed
April 8th - End of term - School finishes @ 1.00pm



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 Middle Community.

Hats

It's Term 1, which means we need to wear hats during play time.
Please help your child remember theirs everyday.



SMART Spelling

Middle Community will be continuing Michelle Hutchison's SMART Spelling this year. This is a way to teach common sound and letter patterns linked to THRASS. In a SMART Spelling classroom, students are explicitly taught spelling patterns, one at a time. Teachers choose a range of words (from simple to complex) from a suggested list in the manual. Students are then guided to choose from that list, to meet different needs. Personal words are also a focus in SMART Spelling. Teachers use their strong professional knowledge they gain in the course to give meaningful feedback to students about their spelling in writing, teaching at the point of need.

Please look out for spelling activities in your child's bag. Each week students will be given a new list of spelling words.

[A model of SMART spelling](#)



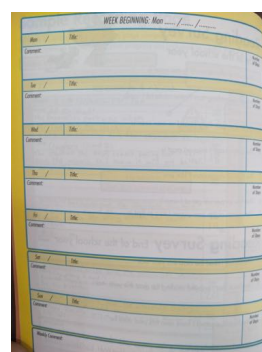
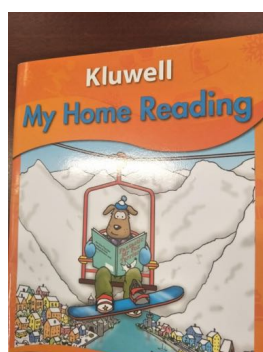
Reading Logs

This year, the Middle Community will be continuing the use of **Reading Logs**. Your child will already have a **Reading Log**.

The purpose of using the 'My Home Reading' books is to track home reading. Each day, students will record the title of the book they are reading and make a comment about the book in the space provided which might just be some new vocabulary they read. Teachers will sign them weekly.

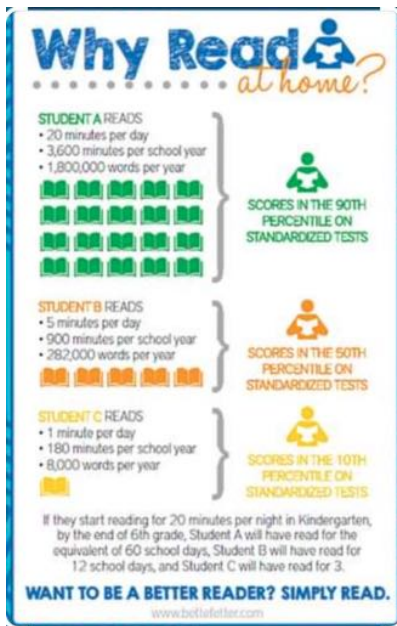
We hope that tracking home reading will inspire students to take an active role in their daily reading and motivate them to become lifelong readers.

We thank parents for their support with encouraging and supporting reading at home.



English

Reading



At Stella Maris, we aim for high expectations from all of our students. We deliver high quality lessons based on the Victorian Curriculum. This term, we will be continuing to focus on developing the skills required to sustain reading. We will work to develop comprehension strategies such as reading for understanding, summarising and making connections. Students will be part of weekly reading groups and regular one-on-one conferences with their teacher.

The Middle Community expectation is that students read a minimum of 5 times each week at home. These sessions should be recorded in the student's Reading Logs and signed weekly. The impact of home reading should never be underestimated and parents are encouraged to get involved with questions about the text, listening or sharing the reading experience. Please see your child's teacher for support with individual goals and strategies to improve your child's understanding of text.

Writing

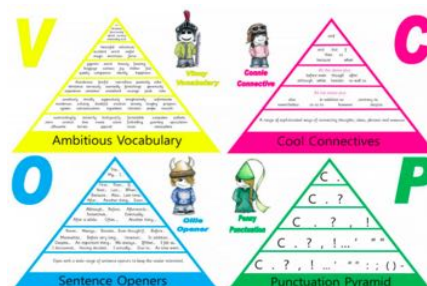
This term, students will revisit the writing process as a whole and will focus on developing the skill of 'viewing self as a writer'. There will be a particular focus on the planning stage of the writing process this term. Students will continue to develop pieces of writing, through a range of genres, using their Writer's Notebook. Students will be taught the structures and language features of narratives and begin to look at persuasive writing. Both Writing and Reading will be interlinked with our Discovery and Encounter units.

Big Write will continue this year and the students are excited to begin. We encourage you to chat to your child about their writing ideas each week. This will help students to discuss their thinking and ideas of what they might like to write about.

Year Three students will be looking at some sample NAPLAN questions and having the opportunity to discuss the layout and multi-choice format in preparation for NAPLAN in Term 2.

Students may talk about VCOP and Cold Write at home.

V is for Vocabulary
C is for Connectives
O is for Openers
P is for punctuation



These are our consistent approaches to Literacy at Stella Maris and your child's teacher will be able to explain them further.

Mathematics



At the beginning of Term 1, students will be learning about **Place Value**, investigating the values that a digit holds in a number, and exploring expanded notation ($2576 = 2000 + 500 + 70 + 6$). They will also practise reading, writing and ordering numbers.

In our next unit we will be exploring **Chance and Data**. Students will be interpreting and representing different displays. We will plan, conduct and research through surveys and analyse and represent the data collected. We will also explore chance language and conduct some chance experiments.

Our **Number** unit this term is **Addition & Subtraction** where students will be looking at a range of different strategies and the connection between addition and subtraction (with a focus on efficient strategies).



In our final unit for the term, we will be exploring concepts of **2 Dimensional Shapes and Symmetry**. Students will consolidate their knowledge of 2D shapes. They will look at the properties of 2 Dimensional shapes and use transformation language and explore symmetry within our environment.

Maths Workshops

The focus for Term 1 Maths Workshops is Backwards and Forward Number Word Sequence. Your child will become more confident in counting forwards and backwards at their 'just right' level to increase their automaticity without having to think what is the next number.

To help at home, you can ask your child to 'count forwards from (eg) 45' and then allow them to practice counting a short length of numbers. Or throwing a ball and saying 'what number comes before/after ...'

HOME LEARNING

Essential Assessment is a resource we have at Stella Maris. Students can soon 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.



Mfacts is an online resource that we will start using in Term 2. Mfacts will help your child practice their multiplication and division skills.

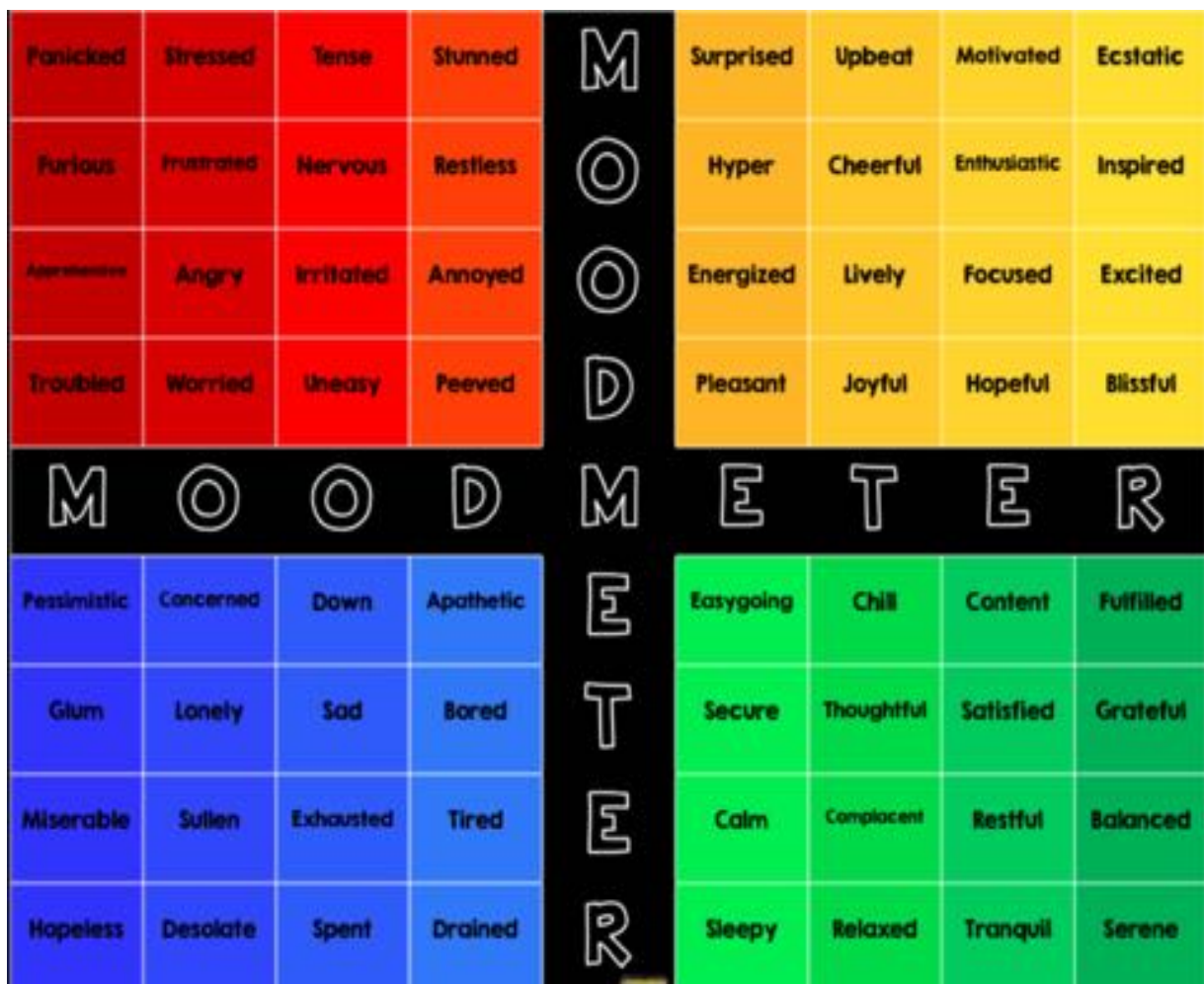
Please also see the post on class dojo for some other at home ideas of how your child can practise their math skills.

Discovery

This term, our Discovery Unit is about *Developing our Learning Culture*. From this unit students will be unpacking the Key Understanding; **Wisdom shapes our future and comes from having eyes wide open to the past and present.**

Students will explore how the Middle Community works, expectations of them as well as considering ways that they learn best. Students will investigate and practise using different thinking tools and resources to help develop themselves as lifelong learners. These concepts will be explored deeper throughout the year. The purpose of the learning experience throughout Term 1, is for students to develop an understanding of their personal strengths, and explain how these can be used to contribute to the community.

The focus of this inquiry is to give students the opportunity and environment to discover the self; and make connections to their identity and their sense of belonging. We will continue to develop our emotional and social understanding connecting to our thoughts, feelings and mental wellbeing through the use of the 'Zones of Regulation' and the 'Emotion Mood Meter'. These link to scientific research and promote the use of strategies and tools to develop language to express emotions and tools to regulate emotions.



Encounter (previously known as Religious Education)

Key Understanding - Encountering faith can enrich a community

This term, in 'Encounter' the students will be focusing on sharing their faith identity with others. We will be deepening our learning about the Character Strengths and Gospel Values and identify how these help with our learning.

Students will reflect on their faith identity and make connections to who they are as a person, and how their faith identity can impact their choices and decisions. Students will compare and contrast their faith identity and what they believe with others, and look at what they value and how that can have an impact on who they are in the community.

During Easter time, students will be investigating the relationship between the story, the symbols and the rituals of Holy Week and Easter. They will be discussing the relationships that Jesus made and the impact he had on others. The students will be learning about Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. They will discuss that Lent is a time of reflection, and are encouraged to look within themselves with the purpose of making a difference. They will extend this to those around them.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: Wednesday 2nd March

