

Term 3 | 2017
28th July 2017

Stella Maris Senior Community Newsletter

Welcome back students and families to Term Three! We are looking forward to an exciting term, filled with the wonder and awe of the Stella Art Exhibition in week 10. We have lots of new units of work to explore as we continue on our learning journeys. It's fantastic to see the effort going in to self-directed learning, mathematics and Big Write sessions.

Religious Education

This term, through the pedagogy of encounter, students raise questions they have about Faith, or choose from a group of known questions to help them inquire into and make connections between the Catholic Faith, Science, Art, other religions and worldviews. They will create comparison charts and Venn diagrams to help show their understanding during the unit and share their thinking at the end through a visual, audio or written response. Hopefully some of these could make it into the Stella Night of Wonder and Awe Exhibition!

In the beginning, when God
created the universe, the
earth was formless and
desolate... Then God
commanded, "Let there be
light" and light appeared.

Genesis 1-3



English

This Term in English, students will be continuing to develop their writing skills during their weekly Big Write sessions. These sessions take place on a Wednesday after recess for the whole Community. The Big Write encourages students to discuss their ideas with their families and friends to help them get prepared and then turn their ideas into successful writing pieces. We encourage students to promote this conversation home.

*What part of VCOP
have you been
focusing on?

What feedback did
you receive today?*

Students will also be developing their knowledge of non-fiction texts. They will be analysing text types such as procedures and explanations in order to compare and contrast text types. They will be learning the skill of paraphrasing, which will help them make notes for their writing pieces.

Students will develop skills around synthesising and summarising information to find the main ideas in a text. As well as this, students will be making connections between their prior knowledge and new information they have learned.

Maths

In Mathematics this term, the Seniors will be focusing on the following units:

Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Money:

Students will describe probabilities using fractions, decimals and percentages. They will investigate strategies to solve problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions with the same denominator. They will locate fractions and integers on a number line and connect fractions, decimals and percentages as different representations of the same number. They will solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of related fractions and attempt problem solving activities to help challenge their understanding of these units.

Time: The Seniors will investigate how to read and write analogue and digital time accurately. They will show digital time on an analogue clock and vice versa, as well as interpret and use 24-hour time. The Seniors will interpret and create simple timetables and schedules, using timetables to plan a journey, locate dates on a calendar and calculate days elapsed between two dates within the same year.

2D Shapes: Students will estimate, measure and compare angles using degrees; create and label acute, obtuse, reflex, straight and right angles accurately to the closest 5° using a protractor. Using their new knowledge seniors will manipulate, identify and name isosceles, equilateral and scalene triangles.

3D Shapes: The Seniors will identify and list the properties of three-dimensional objects as well as visualise and sketch three-dimensional objects from different views. They will construct three-dimensional models given drawings of different views.

Inquiry

Our inquiry topic is looking exciting: it's called The Journey to Discovery. During the unit, students will learn about light refraction, electrical circuits, states of matter, and the scale of the solar system through hands-on experiments and experiences. They will build a thermoscope, a paper circuit and a balloon powered rocket. This unit will highlight to the students that they will continue to develop science, engineering and programming skills as they move through their lives and how different scientists came upon their discoveries in their lifetimes.

*Get exploring and
creating, on:*

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

The Senior Community students will work towards creating a presentation and a quiz to highlight the wondrous facts (on inventions and discoveries) that they have learnt during the unit. Using this knowledge students will plan an inquiry into a journey of discovery, either about a topic they have been exposed to or an area of interest. They will have the opportunity to do so collaboratively or independently.

Through learning about discoveries and the journeys that people go on to achieve them, the students will learn to value the process rather than the destination.

*It's the journey, not
the destination,
dudes!*

We hope that the Senior students will appreciate the scale and complexity of the world around them and understand that scientific knowledge and scientific methods, are important skills to discuss and investigate those complexities.

We have attached our current glossary words if you wish to have a dialog with your child around their meaning and their application to the world around us.

Glossary: angle, average, barge, battery, chronological, condensation, data, diameter, electrical circuit, formula, freezing, interstellar, melting, payload, plausible, protractor, rocket, scale, switch, thermoscope, thrust, vaporisation, wire, wondrous

Cyber Safety / Digital Licenses

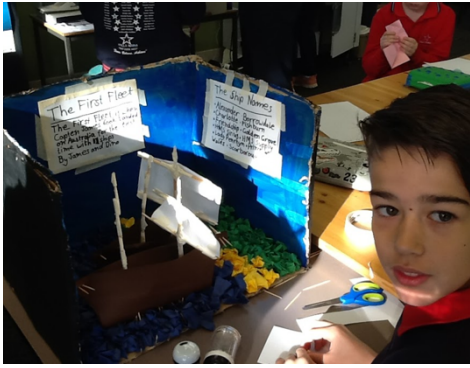
During the start of Term Three Tosh Kaan and Leah Morrow (Foundation mentor and team leader) met with Sylvia Wellinger, an eSmart safety commissioner, from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to discuss the steps Stella Maris has been taking to become an accredited eSmart school.

*Digital License
modules at:*

www.esmart.org.au

Sylvia was impressed with the knowledge that both mentors and students had about being cyber safe, and the efforts made towards becoming an eSmart school. This didn't happen by accident and is credit to our diligence in planning eSmart lessons, engaging in 'safety online' discussions during class meetings and the impact of students completing their online Digital Licence modules (eight in total).

We encourage you to have an open dialogue with your child about their Digital Licences and even sit down with them to complete a module, discuss why it's important to be cyber safe and discuss any misconceptions they may have. Please take advantage of this great resources as it is only valid till 31/12/17. Not only does this program encourage positive peer relationships that enhance wellbeing but helps to prevent the development of all bullying and other negative anti-social behaviours.



Our Term 2 Museums in Motion

In Term 2 the seniors looked at historical events and pioneers, and prepared a diorama to share with others at our own mini museum exhibition. While we welcome parent visitors to our community, we ask that you kindly wait for official invites from your child, or from school via the official communication channel of the weekly newsletter, as opposed to social media. This helps us be properly prepared and be fair to all students and their families who may require more notice before they can attend.

