

Foundation Community Learning Newsletter

Term Two 2018

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

"Knock, Knock..."

The Gospel Bears are going to visit your homes



Matthew



Mark



Luke



John

UPDATE

We welcome Suzie Grosz to our Foundation Community. Suzie is taking over FCB as Mrs Bacon is having a baby and will be leaving this term.



WELCOME TO TERM TWO

Thank you for a great Term One and start to your child's education at Stella Maris. It's been a busy but productive beginning to the year.

Thank you for your cooperation in bringing your child to school for their Observation appointments and for your participation in events such as our Getting to Know You Interviews and Pancake Day.

We look forward to another wonderful term of new learning and experiences.

Now that we have settled in to life at Stella Maris, if you have any queries or questions you would like to ask please forward them to lmorrow@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au.

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

ENGLISH

In English this term we will continue to build the students' familiarity with the THRASSCHART, including building on knowledge of identifying and recording letter names, phoneme (sound) and grapheme (letter) knowledge. Following our observations of the students' literacy abilities, we have restructured our teaching this term to enable us to cater to individual needs during daily, targeted, teaching groups for reading and writing. When reading, our beginning readers are being introduced to the strategies of pointing to each word, looking at the words, using picture clues and recognising common words such as I, a, to and the. Our independent readers will focus on strategies to comprehend what they read. It is important to remember that we will be sending 'take home books' home with your child once they are showing confident reading behaviours. The 'Take Home Reading program' at Stella Maris is designed for you to listen to your child read with confidence and enjoyment. This means that your child will bring books home that are about two levels below what they are reading in the small teacher focused groups.

We are introducing Colourful Semantics this term, which will assist your child with their speaking and writing skills. This includes:

Who – (subject) + What Doing – (verb) + What – (objects/noun) + where + when

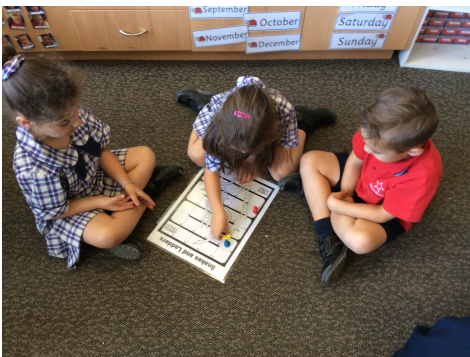
Eg. I watched a movie at the cinemas on the weekend.

Before writing, students are encouraged to say their ideas in full sentences. They are also learning to hear and count the phonemes in words and to record them.

Students will be encouraged to use seven star writing:

- I can use a capital letter to start my sentence.
- I can put punctuation at the end of my sentence.
- I can leave a space between my words.
- I can use Hotwords.
- I can use my THRASSCHART to help me spell my words.
- I can make my handwriting neat.
- My sentence makes sense.

Our main focus however, is to ensure children are confident enough to make attempts at reading, writing and sharing.



TAKE HOME READING

When your child begins to take books home, we encourage you to follow these directions.

1. Read the text to your child to demonstrate what a fluent reader sounds like.
2. Read the text together with your child. (Read it at a normal pace. Do not slow down to let your child "keep up" with you. Reading should match our normal speech rate. It should reflect the way we talk. For example: We... don't... talk... like... this... so.... we... don't... want... to... read... like... this... either!)
3. Listen as your child reads the text to you 2-3 times. Remind your reader to practice reading like they are talking, with fluency.
4. Encourage positive reading behaviours and enjoy the reading experience!
5. Return Book bag to school each day.

MATHEMATICS

We have another big term of mathematics learning in the Foundation Community! Workshop style sessions will continue that will help to target their specific needs in number. Such areas as Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning (SEAL), Numeral Identification, recognition and recording will be addressed within the workshops. We have begun the term with learning about 2D shape. Students will extend on their knowledge of shape and learn the mathematical terms such as properties when describing 2D shapes! Students will also continue to explore number, particularly focusing on counting. They will develop skills such as pointing to each object as they count and match numerals, words and collections. We will then move onto exploring measurement such as length. Next, we will explore the concept of addition, coming to understand that adding two collections together will result in a larger collection. Students will practise representing their mathematical thinking in different ways using diagrams, numbers and words. They will also explore the concept of subtraction and will be encouraged to make links between addition and subtraction. We will finish the term by developing their understanding of location. They will use everyday language to describe the location of objects.



Last term Mathletics usernames and passwords were sent home. We encourage the students to complete the set tasks and Live Mathletics which engages them to practise particular mathematical skills.

The absolute **golden rule** of Mathletics is to **do each activity 3 times!**
Why? Practise = Improvement!

The more they practise the more points they earn which will award them with a Mathletics certificate. The certificates will be printed off by the classroom teacher and given out to the children after prayer time during the term.

If you have any questions, please speak to the classroom teacher.

PRAYER NIGHT

Wednesday 9th May 2018
6.30 – 7.30p.m.

Together we will share a prayerful experience, have conversations and dialogue about the messages within the scripture and how these connect to you individually and as a family. You will also be involved in an activity that will capture your thinking and learning. The sharing as a community, will you support your child's positive relationship with God and those around them. Everyone is welcome regardless of experiences and understanding of the Catholic faith.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect as a community and enrich our interfaith understanding of other faiths and cultures. We look forward to sharing this experience as a community. Please don't forget to wear your pyjamas and slippers!

RELIGION

This term in Religion, the students will be learning about the story of God's creation. They will reflect on all the things that God created for us and explore ways in which they can be stewards of what God has provided for us. The students will also explore stories from the New Testament of the bible and reflect on how Jesus' messages can connect to their own lives. They will reflect on how they can be like Jesus and participate in a variety of tasks that will allow them to learn about how they can take care of others within their community.

MASS AND ASSEMBLY

Term Two Foundation Mass and Learning Assembly will be Thursday 17th May at 9:15am. A learning assembly will follow, with a THRASS focus, for parents and grandparents of the Foundation Community. Please add this date to your diary, as we would love for you to join us.



INQUIRY

Topsy Turvy Tales: Let's be Creative and jump into the world of fairy tales!

This term in Inquiry the students will explore different ways that they can use their creativity through inspiration from fairy tales.

The students will explore the fundamentals of the design process and realise that good thoughtful planning contributes to successful outcomes. They will experiment with design using various materials and will have a chance to use their creative thinking to improve children's toys and fairy tale characters. The students will be working on creating their own Topsy Turvy fairy tale character puppet to perform in their own Topsy Turvy puppet show.

PARENT HELPERS

If you are available to help support in your child's class we would love to have you!

Please see your child's teacher to arrange the day and time!

Please remember to have your Working With Children check, which needs to be shown to Rose at the office and the importance of confidentiality when working with other children.

VIPs

Each week two children from each homeroom are chosen to be the VIP students. They are chosen based on their demonstration of Gospel Values or improvements in their learning. The reason is determined by the homeroom teacher. Their role is also to take and collect the office tray each day. On tuckshop days they also need to take the lunch order tub!

There is a special designated spot for the VIP to sit for the week!



HATS

During Term Two and Three hats are optional for students at school.

ART SMOCKS

Students engage in wonderfully messy art including painting and gluing. To help keep uniforms clean we ask that art smocks are brought to school.

Ms Emma will keep them in the art room. Unfortunately, children will not be able to participate in all the creative fun if they are not wearing an art smock, so please provide your child with a named art smock or old shirt large enough to cover their uniform.

DRINK BOTTLES

We ask that children continue to bring water bottles to school with them. This ensures that if your child needs a drink during the day they do not have to leave the learning area and that disruptions are minimised.

STAFF CONTACT EMAILS

Claire Calleja: ccalleja@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Leah Morrow: lmorrow@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Sarah Pace: space@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Suzie Grosz: sgrosz@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Kylie McKernan: kmckernan@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au