

Senior Community Learning Newsletter

Term 1 2020

*Creating a learning community, nurturing and integrating faith and life,
in a spirit of openness.*

"Together, we'll make a difference!"

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Stella Maris Senior Community 2020!

We have an exciting year planned, full of learning, connectedness and growth.
Please join us in welcoming the new students and families to Stella Maris and the Senior Community:

Aaron Victoria
Malaki Ethimegbe
Oliver Jovevski
Matilda Hilton
Jordan Atanosovski

We encourage families to come into the space and join us for morning prayer by joining our circles or taking a seat.
The senior mentors will be encouraging students to approach school with a growth mindset. Students and their mentors are all learners. If we find something hard, it's because we can't do it yet.

Our mistakes are all opportunities for learning, and we can all grow and develop.
By working together we will be living the Gospel Values of *'Independence, Empathy, Commitment, Enthusiasm, Creativity, Integrity, Cooperation and Respect.'*

We look forward to the year ahead. With your support we know it is going to be fantastic!

Student leaders of 2020

Community Partnership Leaders: Adarsh Gohil, Amalia Brocas-Reti, Ava Healy

Regeneration Leaders: Bayley Strickland, Lirriene Van Der Does

Wellbeing Leaders: Isabella Munro, William Morrison

Student Mentor Leaders: Jayden Romano, Chloe Puc

Arts Leaders: Blake Gaucci, Lola Grey

Sport Leaders: Archer Crockford, Aiden Lowry

Fun in the Sun

It's Term 1 and that means we need to wear a hat when outside.
Please help your child remember to bring their hat everyday.



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..."

Senior Community Mentor Emails

Richard Harding [SCH and team coach] rharding@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Robert Barbour [SCH] rbarbour@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Tue/Fri

Leah Seychell [SCS] lseychell@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Michelle Reid [SCR] mreid@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Emily Kay [SCE] ekay@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Patrick Torpy [SCT] ptorpy@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Mia Marshall [SCM] mmarshall@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Wellbeing: Sharon Hynes shynes@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Tue/Thu/Fri

Wellbeing: Bridget Kirsch: bkirsch@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Mon/Tue/Wed

Cass Barbuto [LSO] cbarbuto@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Tue/Wed/Thu

Erlina Suryadi [LSO] esuryadi@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au Mon/Tue/Wed

Makur Amour mamour@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Calling all Volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer for events or donate your expertise please contact us.

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.



Religious Education

This year our Parish theme is:

'Living with a Trinitarian Heart – Spirit of New Frontiers. Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Will'

We will be drawing on this throughout the year within our prayers, masses, liturgies, lessons and celebrations.

Throughout our Religious Education unit this term, the Senior Community will be exploring the rituals, routines and concepts which contribute to our Catholic Identity at Stella Maris. As we rediscover what it means to pray and meditate, we will make connections to our Stella Maris Gospel Values, finding how we can use them to make an impact in our world.

Leading us into the Season of Lent, Students will be considering and deepening their understanding of what this time is about. We will also discuss how we can use this time to explore our relationships and make the right choices day to day, focusing on how we can explore the final steps of Jesus, making connections to examples of those who need our empathy and support in our world today. With the focus of 'Regeneration' in mind, we will use the stations of the cross to unpack what we would like our future to be like, including the Character Strengths, values and Gospel values we can use to make our world a better place.

English

In Term One, the senior students will be challenged to use their Writer's Notebook regularly, to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas and opinions. The purpose of the Writer's Notebook is to encourage and motivate students in their writing; planting seeds to inspire creative and unique writing pieces that can be stored safely for easy retrieval throughout the year.

We will also be exploring the structure and language features of recounts and narrative texts. Through reading & viewing a range of texts, students will explain how text structures assist in understanding a text. They will also explore how language features, images and vocabulary influence the interpretation of a text.

Students will be learning more about VCOP and THRASS. Activities for these will help students to identify the resources they can use to develop the skills they need, to improve their writing.

If you'd like to know more about VCOP, ask your child to show you the VCOP wall in their space and ask them how they use it in their writing.

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

We will continue to encourage students to develop Reading Stamina, practising every day for a minimum of 15 minutes. Students will learn how to choose a 'Just Right' book and will have the opportunity to read texts that are of interest to them. They will complete book reviews throughout the year to inspire their peers to also read different texts.

Our Big Write will be every second Tuesday (green week) at 9:00AM. Students will keep their work in a Big Write display folder, which they can refer back to and track their development throughout the year. To help your child get the most out of their writing we encourage you discuss their Big Talk Stimulus as home learning with them in the days leading up to our Big Writes. We encourage students to share their work with you to celebrate their growth.

Mathematics

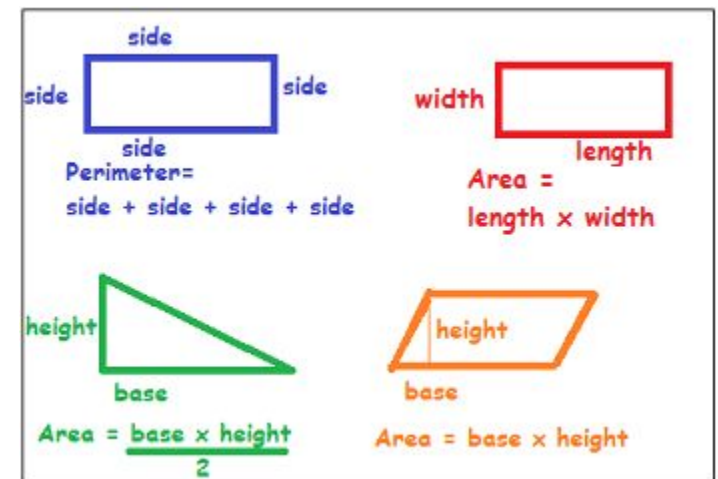
In term 1, we will be exploring: Number Awareness, Area and Perimeter, and Addition and Subtraction.

During our Number Awareness unit, students will explore prime, composite, square and triangular numbers, as well as integers, decimals and negative numbers. Students will be learning to recognise, represent and order numbers to at least hundreds of thousands. They will also create sequences and patterns of numbers using integers, fractions and decimals. Students will be learning to recognise, represent and order numbers to at least hundreds of thousands. They will also create sequences and patterns of numbers using integers, fractions and decimals.

For Area and Perimeter, students will calculate the area and perimeter of different shapes and objects. There are some fun activities of creating garden beds with fencing that needs to be paid for, designing celebration cards using different areas and playing around with different combinations of shapes to see how area and perimeter operate together.

For our Addition and Subtraction unit, students will consolidate the many strategies that they already know and be challenged on new strategies or a new range of problems that use whole numbers, decimals and fractions. The important element here is to focus on the strategies used, so that students choose the most efficient ones. They will learn about relational thinking and the meaning of the equals sign (the equals sign means 'the same as' rather than 'work it out').

Maths Workshops will be up and running by week 4, with a focus this term on forward and backward number word sequence. Can students count forwards and backwards in large numbers, particularly when bridging hundreds and thousands (e.g. counting back from 2 105 to 2 095).



Inquiry



During the first 4-5 weeks of Term One, our Inquiry unit will focus on '**Building a positive learning culture in the Senior Community**'. We will do this through unpacking our key understanding: '**How do our attitudes, values and behaviors influence the culture of a group of people?**' This involves taking the time to build our understanding of self, others, and the cultures that we bring to our new community of Seniors in 2020. Using the Stella Maris Key Concepts (pictured above) will help us to open our thinking.

Throughout the year we will be developing our understanding of what Regeneration looks like, sounds like, and feels like. This process will help with the direction of our Stella Maris Production/Performance event that will happen in Term 4.

Digital Technology

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.

The information below comes from our eSmart program to help you have a conversation around cybersafety with your child.



ZIP IT.

When you're online, always keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do!

Remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. Don't share personal information online; don't share your full name, photos, addresses, school information, telephone number, places you like to spend time.

Make sure you have set your privacy settings to restrict access to personal information.

When you use chat rooms or instant messenger, use a nickname instead of your real name. To stop people accessing your online accounts, always keep your passwords secret and change them regularly.

BLOCK IT.

Think about blocking people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.

Always delete emails from people you don't know, and don't open attachments from people you don't know. They might be nasty or contain a virus that can stop your computer working.

FLAG IT.

If you see anything that upsets you online or if someone asks to meet you, tell a parent or an adult you trust and they can help you.

If you want to talk to someone else, you can call Childline on 0800 1111. If a friend you have made online asks to meet you in the offline world, talk to your parents or a trusted adult about it. You should never meet up with someone you have met online without an adult going with you because it is dangerous. If someone you know is being nasty to someone online, speak to a parent or trusted adult about it.

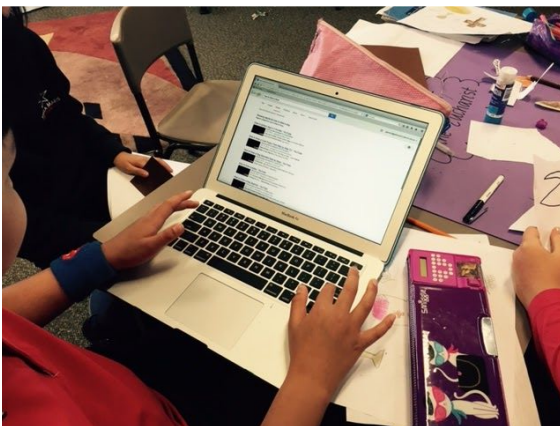
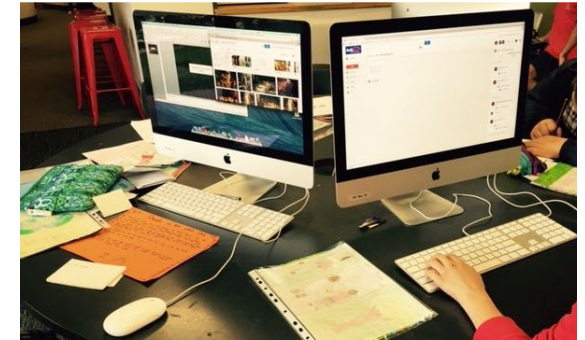
Bring Your Own Device Program

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.

Why Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at Stella Maris?

The school believes technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a world beyond our walls. We feel that access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network, and understanding how to safely and appropriately navigate and use them, are important in each student's education. This is especially relevant now with the introduction of Student Google Apps for Education (GAFE) accounts, as learning can be accessed online through any internet browser, on a variety of devices.

The goal of this BYOD program is to increase student access to digital tools and facilitate more access to technology-based information for all students. Many families have personally owned devices that can be used to help maximise access. When properly used, these technologies will promote educational excellence in the school by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Students who choose not to participate in the trial, will continue to access school-owned resources as they currently do.



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.

The Stella Maris' BYOD program is available to middle and senior community students. Unlike other schools, 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 (**no 3G will be allowed**) as it provides a filtered access to educational appropriate sites on the internet.

For more information, please contact Mr Torpy or Mrs Reid

Wonder of Living

Empowering parents as the primary educators of their child in the area of sexuality education.

It is our belief that important conversations around sexuality should be done in the safety of the home, and supported by the school, not the reverse. As part of our School Improvement

Plan, and following positive feedback from parents last year, we will continue to offer the **'Wonder of Living' Family Enrichment Program** at Stella Maris. This will be an "opt in" opportunity for families.

We will hold two Parent and Child sessions for middle and senior community families on Monday 16th March, 2020. The purpose of the Parent and Child Session is to encourage good communication amongst families about important topics.

The cost is \$10 per family. This is payable on the night.

Information builds sequentially. Topics covered in the parent and child session include:

'A New Baby!' - Topics: development and birth of baby.

(suitable for **Year 3 and 4 students - 6pm-7pm**)

'And Now There's Me' - Topics: the human body; growing and changing; explanation of sexual intercourse and conception including some info about menstrual cycle; healthy choices; support networks; resilience (suitable for **Year 5 and 6 students - 7:15pm - 8:30pm**)