



Dear Parents,

27 January 2022

Welcome to the 2022 school year. I extend a special welcome to all our new families joining the school community and wish them a happy first year at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. I trust that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year spending time with family and friends. During the upcoming school year, I encourage you to take an active role in your child's learning. Parent involvement plays a critical role in our school's success.

The beginning of the year always holds such excitement and promise, and for us it is an annual rite of passage where we open our doors and share with you our hopes and dreams for the coming year. As a school we aim to provide a quality education for the whole person within a Catholic community. I feel strongly that it is our role as parents and educators to provide students with the best possible tools and skills for lifelong learning and success.

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School offers so many exciting opportunities and I encourage students and parents to attend relevant events and to be as involved as possible in the life of the school. Our aspiration, Mel Maria Catholic Primary, is to provide "Excellence in Catholic Education" where our students and staff strive to **#MakeADifferenceEVERYDAY**.



**#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY**

Our Gospel values of Justice, Respect, Compassion and Service are powerful enablers. Most schools and Christian organisations endeavour to aspire to these Gospel values. However, what will set Mel Maria Catholic Primary School apart, if it does not already, is the way we go about honouring our school vision of, "Unity is Strength". We need to continue to strive to be work act and think as the one school in all that we do as a school community.

Our mantra of **#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY** has been well established within the walls of our wonderful school this year. The staff and students have really embraced the meaning behind this saying and try to bring it to life by their words and actions each day. I do believe that Mel Maria Catholic Primary School has developed a very strong sense of community based on Catholic identity and values. There is a strong link and healthy integration with both parishes of Mel Maria Catholic Primary School.

There is considerable pride in the way students, staff members and parents talk about the school, and we have a very dedicated, professional, and committed staff. Our staff ALWAYS put the CHILD at the centre of the conversation in every instance and this will continue to be the focus in 2022.

We are steadily beginning to have a good number of new families enquiring and enrolling their child into our Early Childhood Education program, which is very promising. Increasing enrolments is a positive step forward enabling the school to offer more programs to the students. The more we begin to fill our class sizes and have more enrolments, in the school we will be able to expand on the programs which we already offer to the students at Mel Maria.



As principal my inspiration is to make Mel Maria Catholic Primary School the best Catholic school within our system because this is what I believe our children deserve. What this looks like at the moment I am not completely sure, although I do hope to share with the community early in the new year some of the thinking that has been taking place behind the scenes.

There has been a lot of deliberating, planning, debating and discussion taking place at both a school Leadership Team level, as well as at the CEWA Executive level. On a positive note, we are much further along in our thinking and planning than what CEWA originally thought or expected which is encouraging.

Nonetheless, it is most important that whatever decision or model of schooling is deemed most suitable for Mel Maria, that the outcome for the students and the school are positive. Once this has been determined, the school Leadership Team will be working with members of the community to produce the best possible outcomes (given the resources available) for the Mel Maria community.

### **Leadership Team**

#### **Principal**

Mr Paul Hille

#### **Head of Campus Pater Noster**

Mrs Joanne Scouler

#### **Head of Campus St Joseph Pignatelli**

Mrs Ros Nichols

#### **Assistant Head Of Campus Pater Noster**

Mr Andrew Carr

#### **Assistant Head of Campus St Joseph's Pignatelli**

Mrs Cathleen Massimi

#### **Assistant Head of Campus Administration**

Mr Roman Popadyne

### **New Staff**

We welcome to Mel Maria Catholic Primary School for the commencement of 2022 the following new staff:

#### **Class Teachers**

- Miss Stephanie Figueira Year Six St Joseph's Pignatelli
- Mr Owen Connolly Year Four Pater Noster
- Miss Naomi Smyth Year Six Pater Noster
- Miss Caitlin Taylor Year Five Pater Noster (Semester One)
- Miss Rebecca Galliven Pre-Primary St Joseph's Pignatelli

#### **Education Assistants**

- Mrs Danielle Dunn Pater Noster
- Mrs Briana Ryan Pater Noster
- Mrs Tania Tsgaris St Joseph Pignatelli
- Renae Doncan St Joseph Pignatelli
- Melissa Bond St Joseph Pignatelli
- Deanne Hartree St Joseph Pignatelli
- Sabrina Stewart St Joseph Pignatelli



### **New Families and Staff**

We welcome all new families and students joining the Mel Maria Catholic Primary School community for the first time. We appreciate that this is a very exciting (and nervous) time for you all, but I am sure the Mel Maria School community will look after each of you to make sure you settle into your new environment.

### **COVID Update Information**

Please see the attached letter for the latest update on COVID and how it will be addressed at Mel Maria for the start of Term One.

### **Parent Information Night 2022**

As advertised at the end of last year, our Parent Information Nights at St Joseph's Pignatelli and Pater Noster is scheduled for **Tuesday 1 February**. Each Class/Year level will hold two sessions that parents can choose from:

- Session One: 5.30pm – 6.15pm
- Session Two: 6.30pm – 7.15pm

Given the COVID situation, we would request only one parent from each attend the Parent Information Night.

### **School Uniform**

As we commence the new school year, I believe it is important that we all have a clear understanding of school uniform expectations. A school uniform is specifically designed to be just that – Uniform. A uniform is not open to one's personal interpretation. Each student is a representative of the school and as such, is expected to wear the full uniform (as specified in the Uniform list). The standards outlined in the Uniform Policy must be maintained at all times.

If we want to **#MakeADifferenceEVERYDAY**, it has to start with how we come dressed to school each morning. We want all our students always wearing their school uniform with pride.

Of particular importance this year will be our attention to our school sport uniform, hairstyles, and jewellery. Our School Uniform Policy states that children are required to wear predominantly WHITE sandshoes. Last year, I noticed a number of children coming to school with the incorrect sport shoes (e.g. black, blue, pink etc.). This is not the school uniform.

Students also need to adhere to the Uniform Policy in relation to hairstyles and haircuts, as well as jewellery, as all children are required to present themselves in the correct school uniform, at all times whilst at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. **Please ensure your child's hairstyle is in line with School Policy.**



## **Important Dates - 2022**

Below are **some** important dates pertaining to the 2022 school year. Please refer to the School Website for the School Calendar.

- **Whole School Picnic – Friday 4 February at St Joseph’s Pignatelli**
- **Beginning of Year Mass – Tuesday 2 February**
- **Year Six Commissioning Assembly – 25 February**
- **Back to School Picnic (P&F)**  
I encourage all families to attend this event on **Saturday 19 February 4.00 pm – 7.30 pm at the Melville Tennis Club**. This event is coordinated by the Mel Maria Catholic Primary School P&F Association. This occasion is a way of celebrating your child/ren’s first few weeks at the school, as well as an opportunity to meet other parents and welcome NEW families to the Mel Maria School community.
- **Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent**  
Wednesday,
- **Senior Swimming Carnival (Years 4 – 6) – 9 March HBF Stadium**
- **Sacramental Dates for 2022**  
The following proposed Sacramental dates have been planned and booked for 2022. In 2022, Mel Maria Catholic Primary School will continue the ‘Family Focused, Parish Based, School Supported Program’ which is designed to support families with the faith formation and sacramental preparation of their child.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Pater Noster – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm & Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm  
St Joseph Pignatelli - Sunday 26 June 11am

### **First Eucharist**

Pater Noster – Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 3pm & Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm  
St Joseph Pignatelli - Sunday 23 October 11am

### **First Reconciliation**

Pater Noster - Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 9am Mass followed by Reconciliation  
St Joseph Pignatelli - Wednesday 21 September at 3.30pm

- **Parent Teacher Interviews**  
These will be held in Week 8 of Term 1. Bookings will be able to book these appointments through the School Interview Web link which will be shared by classroom teachers by end of Week Five



## 2022 Term Dates

- Term One 31 January - 8 April
- Term Two 27 April - 1 July
- Term Three 18 July - 22 September
- Term Four 11 October - 9 December

## 2022 Pupil Free Days

- 26 April
- 3 June
- 22 August
- 23 September
- 10 October

The full Term One calendar can be located on the website <http://www.melmaria.wa.edu.au/our-parents/calendar/>

It has been tremendous to see the staff back at school early over the holiday break to set-up their classrooms and develop the teaching and learning program for their students. I know all of them are very enthusiastic and excited about teaching your child and the year ahead.

Again, I welcome you back to Mel Maria Catholic Primary School and to our wonderful learning community. I encourage you to take an active role in your child's learning as parent involvement plays a critical role in your child's schools and our schools' success.

I look forward to your support, and working with you throughout the year, as we work towards our vision of "Excellence in Catholic Primary Education".

Kind Regards

Paul Hille  
Principal

**#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY**