



MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEL MARIA NEWS

TERM 1 WEEK 5

ISSUE 02



From the Head of Campus

Outdoor Learning

NAPLAN

Project Compassion

P&F Events

Mel Maria Turns 50

#MakingADifferenceEveryday

1 February	Term 1 Begins
7 February	Parent Information Night Session 1 5.30pm- 6.15pm Session 2. 6.30pm - 7.15pm
8 February	SJP Mass 9am PN Mass 11am
10 February	Year 6 Leadership Commissioning Assembly 9.00am
13 -24 February	Swimming Lessons Years 3 & 5
16 February	Cyber Safety Presentation - Paul Litherland PN Hall 6pm
20 February	PN & SJP House Keeping Assembly
21 February	Shrove Tuesday
21 February	SAC Meeting 6pm P & F Meeting 7pm @ SJP Campus
22 February	Ash Wednesday
27 February - 10 March	Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2,4 & 6
6 March	Labour Day
15 -24 March	NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5
20 - 5 April	Parent Teacher Interviews
21 - 24 March	Year 6 Camp
29 March	Swimming Carnival Years 4-6
31 March	School Disco
3 April	PN Housekeeping Assembly
5 April	End of Term 1
6 April	Pupil Free
7 April	Good Friday

The full term calendar can be located on page 11 or on the website

<http://www.melmaria.wa.edu.au/our-parents/calendar>

Parents are able to sync the online calendar to your devices.

2023 Pupil Free Days

6 April
24 April
2 June
21 August
21 August
9 October

Whole School Events Save the date

31 March School Disco
29 March Swimming Carnival
5 May Inter-school Swimming
12 May Mother's Day Morning Tea
1 September Father's Day Breakfast
25 October Grandparent's Morning tea

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FROM THE
SOCIAL
WORKER



It has been a busy start to the term and it has been lovely to see the children eager about learning and playing with their friends at recess and lunch time. This is such an important part of their everyday life where they make connections and regulate their emotions. We also thank our parents for supporting their children to settle into school life routine. By establishing routines, following school procedures and expectations, assisting your child to organise themselves for school events such as swimming lessons, they are building skills that create a sense of 'belonging and well-being'. Helping your children build their executive function skills is a crucial part of child development, as it significantly contributes to a child's cognitive and social skills and success in life.

Mr Hille is in regular contact with school leadership as he recovers from his surgery and is having updates on all aspects of school life. He is looking forward to be back soon as we celebrate excellence in learning in our 50th Anniversary Year.

P&F Thank You

A BIG thank you to our wonderful P&F for organising the first community event for the year. It was wonderful to see so many families gathered and celebrating being part of the Mel Maria Community.

We are very blessed at Mel Maria to have a Parents and Friends Association that contributes so much back to the school community and our students. Last year, they gave us funds to purchase; novels for Years 3-6, Science equipment, Sport equipment, and new Mel Maria tents.

This year, the P&F are working towards purchasing new furniture for our hub areas commencing with the upper years.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for Weeks 8, 9 and 10 of this term. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher/teachers to discuss their progress so far this year. Whilst a more formal written report will be issued at the end of Semester 1, Parent/Teacher Interviews are intended to enable parents to discuss any issues or concerns with teachers and receive valuable feedback on their child's/children's general progress.

This is such a great opportunity for you learn more about your child's academic progress and help you set goals together.



Parking and Use of Roads at Drop Off and Pick Up (PN Campus)

We would like to remind families that Drive Thru is supervised before school from 8.25am – 8.40 am and after school 3.00 pm – 3.20 pm.

Arriving after school at 3.10 pm does alleviate some traffic congestion, so if you are able to come a little later please do so. Students will never be left unsupervised.

The City of Melville has reminded the school about parking and importance of following the road rules. As a school community, we continue to set ourselves the highest of standards in regard to the wellbeing of all. We have a school Code of Conduct and we thank you in advance for being considerate and patient when collecting your child/ren.

It's great to see so many families taking advantage of this wonderful weather and community to walk or ride to school.

School Grounds

A reminder to families that students should not be on the school grounds prior to 8:15am. Mel Maria Catholic Primary School provides supervision from 8:15am until the bell goes at 8:40am. On entering the school grounds during the day all visitors are asked to enter via the front office.

School Advisory Council

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following members of the Mel Maria Community for making themselves available to work on the School Advisory Council, P&F Association and Class Representatives in 2023; The members consist of:

Chair:	Anthony Chillino
Treasurer:	Tania Woods
Secretary:	Position Vacant
Parish Priest (Pignatelli)	Fr Don Kettle
Deacon (Pater Noster)	Deacon John Kelly
SAC Members:	Monique Strauss
Principal:	Paul Hille
Head of Campus (SJP):	Ros Nichols
Head of Campus (PN)	Joanne Scouler
P&F Representative:	Michael Ballem



P&F Association and Class Parent Representatives

It was fantastic to have a very positive representation of parents at our first P&F meeting last week. We would like to thank our wonderful Executive Team for nominating for the following positions in 2023;

- Michael Ballem (President),
- Holly Tickner (Vice President)
- Volunteer Required (Secretary)
- Emma-Lee Oliver (Treasurer)

We would also like to thank the Class Representatives across both Campuses for putting their 'hand up' to assist in keeping lines of communication open between the school and home.

The idea of a 'Class Parent Representative' is to strengthen ties between home life and school. At Mel Maria Catholic School we hope this will provide the best possible opportunities for our children and that it will strengthen our home - school relationship.

The main role of the Parent Representative is to:

- Welcome new families to the school, introduce them to existing parents and to ensure they feel included in school life. Often it takes time for new families to feel this inclusion as too often they feel isolated when joining a school community
- Organise small, social, year level get-togethers with the other year representative (eg coffee mornings/ evenings, dinners etc).
- Attend P&F Meetings (where possible) to stay informed and share relevant information within your year level.
- Provide a point of contact for new families in the school.
- Allow parents to mix socially so that new
- Established families develop positive relationships with each other.

It is critical that the SAC, School P&F Association and the School Staff work in unison, so that the priorities and aspirations we have as a school can be achieved. I also take this opportunity to **THANK the spouses** of the various councils' members or class representatives for supporting the school in these areas. I think sometimes, this can go unrecognised, but it is a real commitment by the whole family.

In today's schooling there is an acknowledged relationship between the child, the school and home life. Where a harmonious relationship/partnership exists many benefits for a child's development can occur. This is certainly a major focus of the school over the year.

Why do students complete NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 Schedule

Date	Test	9am	Recess	11am
Wednesday 15 March	Writing Paper Test Year 3 (40 mins)	PN Year 3 Green SJP Year 3		PN Year 3 Red
	Writing Year 5 (42 mins)	SJP Year 5		PN Year 5
Thursday 16 March	Reading Year 5 (50 mins)	PN Year 5		SJP Year 5
Friday 17 March	Reading Year 3 (45 mins)	PN Year 3		SJP Year 3
Monday 20 March	Conventions Year 5 (45 mins)	PN Year 5		SJP Year 5
Tuesday 21 March	Conventions Year 3 (45 mins)	SJP Year 3		PN Year 3
Wednesday 22 March	Numeracy (50 mins)	SJP Year 5		PN Year 5
Thursday 23 March	Numeracy (45 mins)	PN Year 3		SJP Year 3
Friday 24 March	Catch-up			
Monday 27 March	Catch-up			

Lenten Prayer



Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.



Caritas Project Compassion

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also makes the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. The theme of Project Compassion 2023 is 'For All Future Generations' and reminds us that the good we do today extends and impacts the lives of future generations.

By donating to Project Compassion, Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development are able to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Each family has received a Project Compassion box for their donations or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia website: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

God Moments

Lots of beautiful new life around the school at the moment. In Kindy our students are observing the life cycle of a butterfly. These moments help our students make connections spiritually developing their curiosity and understanding.



Outdoor Nature Play



Outdoor Learning

The outdoor environment provides young children with one of the greatest opportunities to learn. The joy and excitement they experience as they learn new skills and make fresh discoveries has such a positive effect on student well-being. Using nature to teach new concepts and to foster class discussion is a highly effective way to increase student engagement and motivation.

Outdoor learning supports creativity and problem solving, enhances cognitive functioning, reduces stress and improves academic performance. Finding more opportunities for children to spend time in nature is more important than ever!



Melville Times

Community

HARMONY DAY
CLASSIFIED PSA
REAL ESTATE LIFT-OUT
residential

Lots of look-alikes

...of look-alikes...
...of look-alikes...
...of look-alikes...



Memories



Mel Maria
Corpus Campus
Yrs PP - 7



Mel Maria
SJP Campus
Yrs PP-4



Mel Maria
McAuley Campus
Yrs 5-7

EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC PRIMARY EDUCATION

SJP Year 2 Class News



SJP Year Two Class News

We have had a wonderful start to the school year and would like to congratulate all of the Year Two students for commencing 2023 with independence and enthusiasm. There is a real buzz around our classrooms as we reconnect with friends and teachers and learn our new routines. We would like to welcome our new families to Mel Maria. The new students have adjusted well to our Mel Maria community and have enjoyed making many new friendships.



In Religious Education we have recently begun our new topic, Lent Easter. We attended mass on Ash Wednesday as we marked the beginning of Lent. We received ashes and were reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, demonstrating his love for his followers. As Mel Maria takes pride in taking part in a Social Justice Projects, with our values in mind: Compassion, Justice, Respect, and Service, we have decided, as a cohort, to collect toiletries and socks for St Patrick's Community Centre in Fremantle. At the end of Lent we will deliver all our donations. Our baskets are in our classroom and we look forward to carrying out our motto of making a difference everyday.

In English, we have been focusing on recount writing and orally recounting an event. We have been using our handwriting lessons and writing lessons to ensure we write with correct letter formation and sizing. We have also been using our Big Books "Ratty Tatty Cat" and "Pirate Polly" to focus on comprehension, fluency, reading and spelling strategies.

In Math's, we have been focusing on place value and number recognition. We have been using MAB blocks to model, represent, order and recognise numbers up to 1000, and have been practising our skip counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s. We have also been looking at calendars and gathering data to represent in a table.

We were lucky enough to begin our Science inquiry of forces and motion by attending a STEM incursion. We had the opportunity to construct a swing boat machine made out of Lego by following picture instructions. This incursion was engaging and fun especially when our machines were ready to be tested by a motor.

In Health, we have started our term with getting to know each other and creating "Friendship Soups" to understand what we desire in a good friendship. We have also been looking at our Keeping Safe program and investigating our emotions; how they impact our actions and what we can do when we are feeling a strong emotion.



This week was the first week of swimming lessons for Year 2. We love getting on the bus each day and enjoy learning news skills and how to keep safe around water. This has fitted in well with our Health lessons as we have had the opportunity to take care of our bodies through exercise and practice behaviours that keep us safe.



PN Year 2 Class News



PN Year Two Class News

In Religious Education we have been learning about the Church and the important ways people show respect in God's holy place. We've also started learning that Lent is a special time to prepare for Easter. We attended Mass on Ash Wednesday and were each blessed with a cross of ashes on our foreheads to remind us to live as Jesus taught.

In English we are focusing on structuring our writing correctly, understanding what we have read, and listening for the sounds in words so we can spell them. Thank you to our fabulous parents who helped us make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. This was an engaging shared language experience used to introduce procedural texts.

In Maths we've been reading calendars and other tables. We've had a look at fractions and how they relate to telling time on an analogue clock, and we are recognising how analogue times are displayed on digital clocks. We're also practising our skip counting, addition and subtraction.

Last week, we had a STEM incursion in which the children had the opportunity to build simple Lego machines that move with a motor. This task allowed them to apply what we are learning about forces (in Science), procedures (in English) and teamwork (in Health).

In Health, we started the year by focusing on getting to know each other, rules (that keep us safe, help us learn and make games fun), listening skills, teamwork and kind behaviour. We have also had the opportunity to practise behaviours that keep us healthy and safe. We can take care of ourselves by exercising our bodies and also relaxing through breathing exercises and meditation. In addition, we've started the Highways Heroes program. This program uses the metaphor of the Highway of Life to help children understand the bumps and hazards we can encounter on life's journey, and we are learning to use the tools we need to navigate them.



Digital Technology

Beacon: the cyber safety app for every parent and carer

beacon

The switched-on app for families online



Scan to download



Telethon Kids Institute is proud to deliver Beacon - a cyber safety educational app designed to keep parents and carers up-to-date with trusted, tailored information, to help keep their kids safe online.

Beacon is designed specifically for parents as a personalised, one-stop-shop for reliable information about the online world. It arms parents and carers with the knowledge they need to confidently help navigate their children's digital behaviour and reduce harms we know are associated with being online and on screens.

Beacon will shine a light on the online world with:

- Articles and videos backed by the latest research
- Tailored content and alerts, unique to your family needs
- An interactive, personalised digital family agreement
- Help and services that are available to you and your family



[Click here to watch a video on beacon](#)

Beacon is here to support all families

Beacon aims to improve the digital future for Australian children by building parents' and carers' digital skills so they can confidently navigate their children's use of digital technology in a positive way and minimise potential harms associated with being online.

The Beacon app integrates seamlessly into parents' daily lives, delivering the most trusted and up-to-date information backed by behavioural science research, as well as personalised support, ideas and strategies at their fingertips to navigate the ever-changing online world.

More information about the beacon app can be found in the link below:

<https://beacon.telethonkids.org.au/>

Beacon is for parents and carers of children ages 0 - 18



#MakingADifferenceEveryday

Library

Noongar Kaartdijin

On Tuesday March 8 we celebrated International Women's Day. The theme this year is DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality. In the library we celebrated IWD by learning the Noongar word for woman - yorga.

The Noongar symbol for woman is pictured here.

The U shape denotes a person while the line represents a digging stick, a sharpened tool that women use to unearth bush tucker (yams, carrots, witchery grubs, honey ants etc.). Variations of this symbol may include other lines that represent a coolamon (a long oval bowl made from tree bark that is used for carrying bush tucker). You can see the noongar symbol for woman in the noongar symbol for family pictured here.



The Library has many books that showcase women's achievements throughout history.

Wastewise News

Mel Maria Libraries have Recycling station that recycle, soft plastic, bottle tops, cartridges, batteries, used writing instruments, paper and bread ties. The alternative to dropping off your recyclables at the library is to go to your local recycling depots. Mel Maria is also a part of the State Government and CEWA ban on single use plastics.

In the Library we have been look at regeneration and how we should plant native plants and consider the insects that are affected by the heat. A simple solution is to create a bee drinking station. Place small stones in a dish and half with water. See the diagram below.



E-safety at Mel Maria

Children being safe online at Mel Maria is an essential part of their learning. Children learn how to keep themselves safe by following simple rules.

- We show respect - we are kind and caring for others.
- We trust our feelings - we ask for help when something doesn't feel right.
- We are responsible - we protect our own personal information.
- We investigate - we question what we see, hear and do online.

For further information click on the link below to access valuable information about how you can keep yourself and your family safe online.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Noongar Kaartdijin

Word of the Week – yorga (woman)



Reminders - P&F Events

Hot Cross Bun Fundraise

Choice of 3 hot cross buns to buy and pick up will be from the school
<https://events.humanitix.com/easter-hot-cross-bun-fundaiser>

Easter Raffle

Parents just need to buy 1x ticket per child.
<https://events.humanitix.com/easter-raffle-2023>

School Disco

The school Disco's are scheduled for Friday 31st March (end of week 9) at Pater Noster Campus Hall:

- The years 1-3 will dance away from 4:30pm-5:30pm. They will receive a small packet or popcorn and a juice box
- The years 4-6 will dance away from 6:00pm-7:30pm. They will receive pizza and a juice box.

<https://events.humanitix.com/mel-maria-disco-yr-1-3-6ll6p9m>

<https://events.humanitix.com/mel-maria-disco-yr-4-6-t4cyab2y>



From the School Social Worker

Catholic Education WA (CEWA) schools are Christ-centred and child-focused learning communities that support each child to develop to their full God-given potential. Key to this is ensuring the learning environment is engaging, supportive and safe.

All members of our school share the responsibility for creating and maintaining this healthy culture. By working together we can ensure all children flourish in a safe and healthy environment.



Recognising that each child has the right to be heard is an important element in the CEWA Child Safe Framework. At our school students are taught that they have the right to be safe and we empower them with the language, skills and strategies to assist in their safety by talking to people that they trust. It is a requirement that all students receive a protective behaviours and abuse prevention education.

We are continuing to implement the *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC)*. This is an evidence-based child safety program that teaches children to recognise abuse, tell a trusted adult, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and ways of keeping themselves safe. The KS:CPC fits primarily within the Health and Physical Education learning area of the Australian Curriculum but is also taught across multiple learning areas, including Religious Education.

The curriculum is based on two main themes:

- We all have the right to be safe
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.

The themes are presented through four Focus Areas:


Focus Area 1: The right to be safe, including topics such as identifying feelings, early warning signs, and emergency situations.

Focus Area 2: Relationships, including topics such as identifying trusted networks, and dealing with bullying.

Focus Area 3: Recognising and reporting unsafe situations, including topics such as privacy and the body, and cyber safety.

Focus Area 4: Protective strategies for keeping safe, including topics such as assertiveness, problem solving and persistence.

Our school relies on strong partnerships with you, as parents and carers, to provide your child with the best possible learning and development opportunities. Working together we can ensure all children and young people flourish in a safe and healthy environment. If you have any further questions about this information or the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum in general, please speak with your classroom teacher, the Principal or the school social worker.



'We strive to create happy and successful children who we are proud of... we are more than a school, we are a community, united by our motto, 'Unity is Strength.'

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