



MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEL MARIA NEWS

TERM 3 WEEK 10

ISSUE 14
22 September 2023

50th Anniversary
Mass



Mel Maria Catholic Primary School
Sisters of Mercy
Past Principals
Current Principal

#MakingADifferenceEveryday

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TERM 4 2023 - Mel Maria

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	9 Oct PUPIL FREE	10 OCT Students Commence	11 OCT Kindy Incursion – Farmyard on Wheels	12 OCT	13 OCT Senior Athletics Track & Field Carnival Y3 -6 Yr 2 Bracks Library Excursion	14 OCT	15 OCT
2	16 OCT PN Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards	17 OCT Yr 2's SJP & PN Excursion Kings Park	18 OCT Yr 5 Mass 9am PN & SJP	19 OCT LOUD SOCK DAY	20 OCT	21 OCT	22 OCT SJP First Holy Communion 11am
3	23 OCT SJP Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards Yr 5 & 6 Incursion	24 OCT Yr 3 BYOD Night 6pm PN Library	25 OCT Grandparent's Day PP Grandparents Mass 9am SJP Kindy -Better Beginnings	26 OCT Interschool Athletics	27 OCT World Teachers' Day	28 OCT	29 OCT
4	30 OCT	31 OCT	1 NOV All Saints Mass 9am PN Kindy -Better Beginnings	2 NOV All Souls Day	3 NOV	4 NOV	5 NOV
5	6 NOV PN Yr 4 Cathedral Excursion	7 NOV SAC Meeting 6pm P&F 7pm PN Yr 4 SJP Excursion	8 NOV PN Yr3 Mass	9 NOV Yr 1 PN Bunning Excursion	10 NOV Coffee Cart Conversations SJP Pre-K to PP@PN 9am Remembrance Day Service 11am	11 NOV Remembrance Day	12 NOV St Joseph Pignatelli Celebrations
6	13 NOV PN & SJP House Keeping Assembly 9am	14 NOV	15 NOV Yr 1 PN Assembly 9am Coffee Cart Conversations Yr 1 PN @SJP 10am SJP Festival of the Boot Pre-Kindy/Kindy Parent Night 6.30pm	16 NOV	17 NOV Yr 1 SJP Assembly 9am Orientation PP-Year 6 9.15am New Families PN Festival of the Boot	18 NOV	19 NOV Christ the King Feast Day
7	20 NOV Coffee Cart Conversations Yr 2 PN @SJP 9am PN Yr 6 Transperth Incursion	21 NOV PN Kindy Playdate 9.30am ACM 6pm (PN Hall)	22 NOV SJP Kindy Playdate 9.30am SJP Yr 3 Mass 9am	23 NOV	24 NOV Mel Maria Christmas Markets	25 NOV.	26 NOV Advent Commences
8	27 NOV SJP Pre-Kindy 9.15-10am	28 NOV PN PP Assembly 9am Music Recital PN	29 NOV SJP Kindy Concert SJP Festival of the Boot PN Kindy Concert	30 NOV Music Recital SJP	1 DEC SJP PP Assembly 9am PN Festival of the Boot	2 DEC	3 DEC
9	4 DEC SJP Graduation 6pm PN Housekeeping Assembly	5 DEC PN Graduation 6pm	6 DEC End of Year Mass Transition Day Kindy SUPERSONIC Science Incursion	7 DEC Yr 6 Fun Day Yr 5 Excursion SJP PP SUPERSONIC SCIENCE incursion	8 DEC LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS Assembly @PN 9.30am PN PP SUPERSONIC SCIENCE incursion	9 DEC	10 DEC
10	11 DEC	12 DEC	13 DEC	14 DEC	15 DEC LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STAFF	16 DEC	17 DEC

Principal's Message



Week Ten Term Three

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School 50th Anniversary

History

Mel Maria was established in 1973 by the rationalisation of St Joseph Pignatelli Catholic Primary School, Attadale; Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Myaree; Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Willagee; and the Primary School of Santa Maria.

All of these schools existed separately in their own right. However, because of their size and limited resources, they struggled educationally to meet curriculum requirements.

Following a series of meetings in 1972 involving the community of each of the schools, it was decided to amalgamate all the schools and Mel Maria came into being.



The building of the new church on the Corpus Christi site was seen as an opportune time to rename the parish due to confusion with local parishes of the same name. Following due consideration, the parish and school site was renamed Pater Noster.

Mel Maria today is a tribute to the wisdom and the foresight of the then Principal of Corpus Christi, Myaree - Sr. Joan Smith. Though she never worked as such at Mel Maria, she will always be remembered for her work in sowing the seeds from which Mel Maria has grown and blossoms today.

The first Principal of Mel Maria was Sister Florence O'Sullivan, followed by Sister Marie Fitzgerald, Mrs Janet Purcell (first lay principal), Mr Michael Smith and recently, Mr Gregory Stinton.

The name Mel Maria was chosen because all three campuses are in the City of Melville. 'Mel' comes from the first three letters of Melville and also has Irish derivation meaning 'place'. 'Maria' comes from the link with Santa Maria. The McAuley campus was originally the Primary School of Santa Maria. As such, Mel Maria means 'the place of Mary'.

The patroness of Mel Maria is Our Lady of Mercy, and her feast is celebrated on September 24th.

The Spirit of Catherine McAuley

The Sisters of Mercy brought to Mel Maria a spirit of their founder Catherine McAuley. Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin in 1831. Her intention was to serve the poor, especially women and children. When asked to describe the qualities necessary in women seeking membership in the Sisters of Mercy she responded simply: 'An ardent desire to be united to God and to serve the poor'.



In Catherine's view of spirituality, prayer and service complemented each other. The good works – the practical expression of mercy – to which she called the members of her community, was the outcome of the spirit of prayer in the lives of her sisters. To quote her words: 'We should be like the compass that goes round its circle without stirring from its centre... Our centre is God, from whom all our actions spring as from their source, and no exterior action should separate us from Him.'

At Mel Maria, we continue to uphold the Spirit of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy 'Our gift is to know God's loving kindness and to share it with others' (ISMA constitutions). Making God the centre of our lives and the outcome of this - our service to others - is basic to our endeavour. In very simple terms, it is living out the words of Jesus 'to love God and love your neighbour'.

School Celebrations

This week, we joyfully commemorate 50 years of Catholic Education at Mel Maria. Yesterday all our junior students gathered at Pater Noster Church for a special Liturgy of the Word led by Deacon John.

It was wonderful to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Mass today in the St Joseph Pignatelli Church. The mass was attended by the senior students from both campuses, special guests, past Principals, Sisters of Mercy and parents from both campuses. Thank you to Father Don on celebrating the special 50th Anniversary mass.

We would like to thank the **Mel Maria Parent Community** for their generosity and support in assisting us with the 50th Anniversary morning tea celebration.



Past and Present

Picture to the left includes the following people:

Sisters of Mercy

- Sr Joan Smith who established the concept of joining four schools under the one name
- Sr Florence First Principal of Mel Maria CPS
- Sr Eileen McVitte, Former Principal of St Joseph's Pignatelli
- Sr Marie Fitzgerald Former Principal of Mel Maria CPS
- Sr Kathy Kettle who worked with the students this week and is Father Don's sister

Directory of People and Culture (CEWA)

- Mr Paul Andrews

SJP Parish Priest

- Father Don Kettle

Current School Principal

- Mr Paul Hille

Today, we come together to commemorate not only an establishment, but a remarkable half-century heritage characterised by resolute dedication to Catholic education, faith, and community at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School.

We recognise and honour the dedicated educators, visionary leaders, and supportive parents who laid our school's foundation. Their unwavering commitment has driven our success.

At this milestone, we reflect on our core values:

- **Faith:** Nurturing faith in each other, our abilities, and our mission.
- **Excellence:** Striving for excellence in academics, personal growth, and character.
- **Community:** Mel Maria isn't just a school; it's a close-knit family.
- **Justice:** Embracing inclusivity as our identity.
- **Compassion:** Acting with kindness, empathy, and support.
- **Respect:** Embracing a foundation of dignity and appreciation for every individual.
- **Service:** Encouraging active engagement in our communities.
- **Hospitality:** Creating a welcoming, inclusive community.
- **Leadership:** Empowering every student and staff member to make a difference.



Our journey has shaped us into who we are today—a testament to the power of a dedicated community working together.

Looking ahead, we uphold Mel Maria's Catholic Primary Schools legacy, staying true to our core values. The next 50 years will bring new challenges and opportunities, but our mission remains constant: to nurture faith, strive for innovation and excellence, build a strong and supportive culture, serving others and embracing community.

To our students, staff, parents, alumni, and friends, we say thank you. Your dedication, passion, and belief in Catholic Education's transformative power are the pillars of our success.

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, let's look back with pride and forward with hope. The best is yet to come for Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, and together, we'll not only shine as a beacon of faith, excellence, and community, but also a place where we strive to **#MakeADifferenceEveryday** and Ignite Hearts and Inspire Minds of all those associated with our wonderful school.

May God continue to bless Mel Maria Catholic Primary School and all who have been and are, still are part of this remarkable school.

Mel Maria Open Night

At Mel Maria, we definitely have lots to celebrate! Our Open Night last week showcased the amazing learning that our students have been doing over the course of the term. Their enthusiasm and engagement in the process was contagious and the deep learning taking place across the curriculum was at a high. Many current parents and prospective families have provided significant positive feedback regarding the high quality of students' work and the overall atmosphere of the school. Well done to all the staff and students! **#MakingADifferenceEveryday**



Church Carpark

Parents may have notice that there is work happening at the old church site at the St Joseph Pignatelli campus. This work has nothing to do with present or future works at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. This is a St Joseph's Pignatelli Parish project. However, it will impact the school carpark adjacent to the old church on Davidson Road. Staff and parents will no longer be able to park in this car park as of Saturday 23 September, when the developers take ownership of the old church site. Further information regarding the project is available from the parish office.

Tournament of Minds

Last weekend two teams from Mel Maria Catholic Primary School participated in the State Finals of the Tournament of Minds competition held at Edith Cowan University in Joondalup. Our Teams performed extremely well and worked hard over the whole day. We were so proud of their efforts. Both teams were



awarded medals of honour, while the SJP Team also won the Creativity and Innovation Award for their performance. The judges were impressed with the highly creative ideas generated in the students' discussions and shown in their presentation. Well done to all and a special 'Thank You' to Mrs Teresa Marra who trained these teams, giving up a lot of her weekends to assist the students. Thank you also to Mrs Ros Nichols for supporting these teams over the weekend.

Staff On Leave Term Four

We wish the following staff all the very best as they take some well-deserved leave in Term Four

- Mr Owen Connolly
- Mrs Cate Cooper
- Mrs Natalie Naven

We pray that they enjoy their time away with family and friends and return safely in 2024.

Summer Uniform

A reminder to all students and parents about the Mel Maria School Uniform. The uniform at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School is a symbol of the school's community and it assists children to develop a sense of unity and belonging. Wearing the uniform encourages a sense of personal pride in and the school. Whenever the uniform is worn at school or public places it must be worn in accordance with the school policy (Refer to our school website for a copy of the Uniform Policy)

Next term, all students move back into their Summer uniform. Children are permitted to wear their winter uniform up until the end of Week 2 if necessary. All students are required to be in the full Mel Maria summer uniform by week 3 of Term 4. Parents are reminded to have all items of school clothing clearly labelled.



From My Readings . . .

The holidays provide time to have a rest and a break from the busy schedule of school days.

There is also time to do some things that there may not be time for during the school term. The following is a list of ideas that may be useful during the next two weeks.

- plan for some 'lazy' days and have quieter days around the house.
- Read a book, or three. The best thing about holidays, and going slow, is the ability to bring the adventures read in literature alive in many exciting ways; drawings, dramatisation, collage, painting, box construction, filming etc... are all ideas that can be sparked from an interesting read.
- Visit a local park – perhaps not just any park, get out the UBD or go on the internet and find a park that you haven't been to before. Many of the new Council playgrounds are fantastic. There is water play, flying foxes, and all sorts of equipment. A lot of them are fun for parents too! You might ride your bike to the park. Take a cricket set and play a game of cricket at the park.
- Go to the movies – at home. Rent or download your favourite kids movie, make some popcorn, dim the lights and enjoy the cinema at home!
- Play board and card games - they are always loads of fun and can keep kids amused for hours. Think of games like: Game of Life, Monopoly, Scrabble, Cluedo and many others.
- Play puppet show at home - puppet shows have always been the cornerstone of imaginative play for children and you can make your own puppet show at home too! You could collect all your socks that you're no longer using and get out the glue and have fun creating.
- Do some gardening – redecorate part of the garden with some new flowers. You could also try and grow some food at home!

Read more at: <https://www.stayathomemum.com.au/my-kids/activities/100-fun-things-to-do-on-school-holidays/>



Prayer for the Week



Sr Catherine McAuley Prayer

My God, I am yours for all eternity.
Teach me to cast my whole self
into the arms of your Providence
with the most lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,
that whatever you ordain or permit may always be acceptable to me.
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;
suffer nothing to afflict me but sin,
nothing to delight me, but the hope of coming to the possession of You
my God, in your own everlasting kingdom.
Amen

Thought for the Week

"We must try to be simple and humble in our actions, avoiding complicated schemes and a desire for self-importance." "It is better to be kind than to be right." "Let us not be afraid to stand up for what we believe in." "We are called not to be successful, but to be faithful."
Sr Catherine McAuley

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Hille".

Paul Hille
Principal

#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY



MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

#MakingADifferenceEveryDay



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Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

Excellence in Catholic Education



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Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

HAPPY
**Grand
Parents
day**

MEL MARIA COMMUNITY

celebrates

All Grandparents

25 OCTOBER

MEL MARIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

TIME: 9.00-10.30AM

ALL GRANDPARENTS SPEND

TIME IN THE CLASSROOM

BETWEEN 9-10AM

FOLLOWED BY A MORNING TEA

[#MakingADifferenceEveryday](#)

Religious Education

SJP Eucharist Retreat

Our Yr4 students enjoyed their Holy Communion Retreat. They had a fabulous day of fun games and spiritual reflection, led by a fantastic group of young leaders from 24:7 School Ministry Team.



Our Thoughts:

The best thing about the retreat was how we made a grapevine with all the grapes that connect us to God. (Kathryn)

I liked all the games we played. (David)

I really liked everything about the retreat, it made me feel especially free, it was a good experience. (Mason)

The Vine activity made us feel closer to God. (Taylor)

The best thing about the retreat was when we wrote on the vines. (Harrison)



Religious Education

Sister Kathy Kettle Visits Mel Maria

On Tuesday Sister Kathy Kettle visited Mel Maria and shared the Faith Story and Witness of the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Kathy reminded us to ask the “How” question, How can we act our values of Justice, Respect, Service and Compassion.

Our students valued listening the charism of the Mercy order and how this has impacted what we do at Mel Maria.



First Reconciliation at Pater Noster

Congratulations to our Year 3 students who made the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday.

It was lovely to see so many parents attend Mass and be involved in the Sacrament.



JUNIOR FACTION CARNIVAL

Last Friday, the students from PP – Year 2 participated in the inaugural Junior Carnival at Troy Park. Great fun was had by all, if the smiles on the faces of the competitors and spectators are anything to go by. All games were fiercely contested, with perhaps the most competitive being the Parents' Dress Up race at the end of the day! In Pre-Primary, Gold was the winning Faction, while Green was victorious in Year 1 and Blue in Year 2. Overall winners on the day were Gold.

Thanks to the Year 6 Sports Ministry who assisted with the Year Groups and at the Finish line giving out ribbons and stickers. Thanks also to all Staff who helped make the day such a great success and to the Parents and Grandparents who came along to support the students. Finally, a big thank you to the P & F, who kept the troops nourished throughout the day with the cake stall and sausage sizzle.

Mr Damian Williams and Mr David John
Physical Education staff



Congratulations State Honours and the Creativity Award

Students had to employ teamwork, collaboration, critical and creative thinking, original thoughts, communication, and self-expression to engage in the long-term problem and spontaneous at regionals not to mention the skill set they utilised on Saturday.

Saturday States had them under time pressure, relying on each other, working towards solutions, and having to put their faith in themselves to communicate this to other competitors, judges and their parents.

Congratulations, be proud of all you achieved.

Ms Teresa Marra
Gifted and Talented Coordinator



Good habits start young

Parents and carers play an important role in helping children to develop digital intelligence – the social, emotional and practical skills needed to successfully navigate the digital world.



Even for preschool children, it is never too early to instil good habits, and as your child gets older it is useful to keep reminding them of these basic digital intelligence principles: respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience. These are also principles you can emphasise with your child when things go wrong.

How to build digital intelligence

Promote respectful communication

- Encourage your child to use the same positive manners and behaviour they would use offline, understanding that others may have different cultures, backgrounds or points of view. If it is not OK to say or do something face to face, it is not OK online.

Encourage empathy

- Help your child to imagine being in someone else's shoes, so they can relate to diverse opinions and understand what might make people behave in different ways.

Teach them to question

- Encourage your child to think critically about what they see online. Teach them to ask questions so they can identify content or messages that may be misleading or exploitative.

The full article can be found on the eSafety website

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/good-habits-start-young>



MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEALTH NEWS



For children in Years 3 to 6 Health is proving to be invaluable as they navigate friendships, relationships and the inevitable changes and curve balls that life throws at all of us.

The Year Threes and Fours have been identifying behaviours that show respect and empathy for others and developing resilience. In Year 3 the children have learnt about the powers of positive and negative self-talk and how to manage uncomfortable feelings, while Year 4 children have focused on strategies to identify and manage emotions before reacting as well as learning to cope with adverse situations.

In Year 5 we have focused on strategies to manage the changes associated with puberty, especially dealing with emotional changes, and the impact of inappropriate responses on relationships.

The focus in Year 6 has been on strategies to promote a healthy lifestyle with a focus on nutrition, increasing physical activity and the harmful impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Mrs Edwina Cottino
Health Education Teacher



#MakingADifferenceEveryday

How to Help Kids Deal with Criticism



Child Mind
Institute

No one enjoys being told that they did something wrong, but for kids with mental health or learning challenges, being criticized can feel especially painful.

Even mild criticism can feel like a personal attack. Intense emotions can make it hard for them to hear what is actually being said and learn from their mistakes.

Parents can help kids handle criticism better by creating a positive framework for feedback. For instance, offering five positive comments for every critical one can build a child's confidence and make them more open to accepting criticism as a means of improvement.

When kids react negatively to criticism, it's essential for parents to create space for them to talk about their feelings. Listening and validating their emotions instead of immediately trying to solve the problem can lead to a better understanding of the underlying problem. A child who got a bad grade and declared, "The teacher hates me!" might come to see that they didn't understand the assignment, and they were ashamed to admit it.

For kids with ADHD, being impulsive can make it particularly challenging to manage powerful emotions. And a history of negative feedback about their behaviour — "Pay attention!" "Stop talking!" "Stop fidgeting!" — can make even the most constructive criticism feel like they're being told, "I'm bad at this like everything else!"

Over time, learning to talk about emotions can help quiet these voices of self-doubt, and rein in outbursts. The child might not be able to respond perfectly calmly, but they might learn to take a deep breath or a mental timeout before they react.

Parents can also prepare kids to deal with feedback they might get from teachers and coaches, who may be stressed or abrupt — or yell in the heat of a game — but whose goal is to help kids improve their skills.

And when they get criticized by peers, it can help kids to talk about it with parents, to sort out their feelings, in order to stand up for themselves without resorting to being critical in return.

See the link below for additional information

<https://childmind.org/article/how-to-help-kids-deal-with-criticism/>

School Holiday Programs



2023 SPRING HOLIDAY ENGINEERING AND ROBOTICS CAMP Perth WA (for grade 1-7 students)

Locations	Date	Booking Link
Perth Greater Metro - Clarkson, Joondalup, Ellenbrook, Caversham & Rivervale	Sept 26, 27 Oct 3-6	https://gmperth.young-engineers.com.au/registration/
Perth North – Osborne Park	Sept 26-27	https://perthnorth.young-engineers.com.au/registration/
Perth CBD	Oct 3-4, 5-6	https://app.iclasspro.com/portal/yeperth
Perth West & South - South Perth, Swanbourne	Sept 27-28 Oct 5-6	
Bunbury	Sept 29	

Engineering & Robotics Workshops: These workshops provide students with a full-day of fun, hands-on STEM learning Lego® models, programming robots and conducting other fun-filled experiments & activities.



"Elliot has continued to talk about how fun Engineering Camp was. A wonderful camp and he will be attending again in the future."
- Parent

"Fantastic experience for young minds. Nate had an absolute blast and cannot wait to do it again next year. He is still talking about it nearly 2 weeks later. Thank you"
- Parent

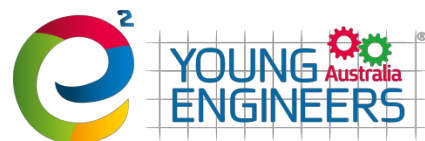
Parents are requested to provide crunch & sip and lunch clearly labelled with the child's name.

The students can enrol for one or two days. Students will learn and build different models on each day.

The students may also go through an outdoor activity. Please ensure the child has a hat and sunscreen. We have a strict policy of **"No hat no outdoor play"**.

For more information please contact us on 0406542912

<https://www.young-engineers.com.au/>
perth@young-engineers.com.au



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