



Key Questions and Queries – 19 March 2024 – Primary Campus Transition Focus

We presented on 19 March with a focus on updates and future curriculum plans and progress at Mel Maria Primary campus.

1. What is the design thinking model and student agency?

Design thinking follows a specific process which allows students to investigate real world problems; Following the model empathise, define, ideate, prototype and test, typically, with variations and additional steps (like reflect or share) added depending on context.

In the educational context, agency refers to a respectful and more empowered, positioning of students to be active agents in their own learning lives.

2. What is meant by student agency and the inquiry model as it is applied across various subject areas.?

Our integrated inquiry model moves beyond traditional academics to focus on spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of our students. It creates and grows the skills and dispositions of our students to: research, collaborate, think and self-manage.

This year we developed a NEW initiative called **“Master Minds at Mel Maria”**, which sees our Year 5 and Year 6 cohort working together. This initiative is based on an integrated inquiry model where our students work collaboratively to solve ‘real world problems’. The thinking, critical reflection, and collaborative strategies the students are using, guided by our staff, is wonderful to see in action. It certainly provides our students with opportunities they may not receive otherwise.

“There is so many exciting things happening at Mel Maria, I couldn't wish to be anywhere else”
(Ms Teresa Marra)

This new model allows for connection with each student and create an enriching learning environment. It gives students the opportunity to apply and extend their knowledge and learning within their areas of interest and passion.

The model teaches a process that can be applied within a variety of learning disciplines. It scaffolds students to integrate all areas of learning and to extend capabilities during the process.

3. What will student leadership structures look like throughout the school?

Our current Student Leadership model is a successful foundation to be extended across year levels within the new model. Students at all levels of the school will participate in mentoring activities and programs. Further details will be shared as well-being and student leadership plans and programs are put in place for 2025.

“Leadership opportunities for our Year Six students are really important and special for this age group. Ownership and sense of agency and responsibility is what we are trying to develop across all year levels.” - (Mr Owen Connolly - Year 6 Teacher)

4. Will the Year 6 students still have the opportunity to work with the younger students in this new model?



Yes, our Year 6 and Year 5 Leadership Programs will involve our student leadership groups mentoring our younger students within a variety of service-learning contexts.

Details of projects are being planned by staff and will be updated and shared with parents as soon as more details are in place.

5. How do you envisage the mentoring system to work across the two campuses?

The mentoring program is being explored with future transitions in mind. In our planning with staff and students Year 5's and Year 2's will embark on a leadership mentoring program building relationships through service learning each year.

In 2025, it is envisioned that the Year 6 leaders and Year 3's will have an existing relationship. The 2025 group of Year 3's will have mentors in place.

6. How do you envisage the leadership opportunities for junior grades? And how will this happen?

We plan for our current Year 6 students to mentor our current Year 1 students in preparation for leadership roles in 2025.

"We have the opportunity to see our younger student's potential come to fruition. Raising our expectations of our younger children leadership opportunities will be exciting". (Mr Paul Hille - Principal)

We acknowledge the Year 2 students' potential to cultivate and showcase their leadership abilities, as well as to foster confidence and autonomy within the Early Childhood environment. Collaboratively, staff will create suitable roles and responsibilities aimed at fostering a growth mindset in every student.

7. How will younger students interact with older students and how will this happen?

Primary students will have opportunities to visit the Early Childhood Campus for several planned activities. It is envisaged that opportune times will be designated towards incursions across all year levels.

8. Will the students be getting more handball courts on the Primary Campus?

Yes, new areas have been identified where some additional courts can be painted.

9. Will there be disruption to the students during the construction of the courtyard?

We anticipate minimal disruption during this process. Most of the work will happen in the school holidays. The construction will be phased to minimise this. The campus has ample space to accommodate the students in other areas to play and interact.

10. Would you consider recognising our students who are talented in the sporting domain going forward? i.e. Champion Boy /Girl for sporting disciplines?



Yes, (Champion Girl/Boy) will be explored by the staff and the Leadership Team for 2025.

A renewed look at potential student well-being in the context of sports factions will be raised with staff and students.

Mr Paul Hille has proposed that faction names associated with the history, charism and traditions of the school will give students the opportunity to have a deeper relationship and connection with Mel Maria's background and founders.

11. Could there be more emphasis on building faction Spirit during faction carnivals?

New faction names will provide the basis for renewed faction identity and team spirit. Plans are in place for students to meet more regularly in their faction groups in order to build relationships and team spirit. e.g. Faction Friday.

12. What is the schedule for the various builds? Where is the funding coming from?

Firstly, it must be noted, that CEWA (Catholic Education Western Australia) is most supportive of this initiative and the project. They and are most excited to see it come to fruition.

Our Principal, Mr Paul Hille, in conjunction with the Architect and the CEWA Capital Development Team is responsible for the formation and roll out of the School's Capital Development plan for the next stages of the building program. The committee is meeting early in Term 2 to plan the next phase of the Capital Development plan.

School Funding is applied for within a yearly cycle. As a school we have already (October 2023) put our Expression of Interest (EOI) for the next round funding.

The next major building stage will see works happening at the Primary Campus. We will keep parents well informed of the next stage of development.

It is important to note that this first stage will be completed by end of Term Two.

In addition to this, we are upgrading our POD Areas (space between the classrooms usually in a block of four rooms) with new furniture that will act as a fifth classroom. **We are very appreciative and grateful to the P&F Committee for raising the funds for this project.** This too, we hope to complete by the end of Term 2.

13. What is the transition time frame for the new uniform, and will it be a different colour?

A new school uniform provides an ideal opportunity to reimagine a new identity for Mel Maria within the Mercy Tradition.

A uniform committee has been established and they are looking at a number of options, some of which have been shared with the community already.

The students are also being consulted on some aspects of the uniform design.



All options are being explored with all stake holders being consulted in the process, including parents, students and teachers advising on the Uniform committee. We will keep you updated with information as decisions are finalised.

14. Will Year 1 and 2 students at PN have to carry school bags up and down stairs?

Storage of school bags for Years 1 and 2 students is being attended to. We are currently investigating various options that are age appropriate.

15. Are eating and playtimes going to remain the same? (See below)

Proposed School Timetable 2025

Please Note: A shuttle bus will be running between the two campuses. Pick-up and drop-off times are still being worked through so children will arrive in time for the start of the day. Once these times have been determined, we will share this information with parents.

SJP Campus			PN Campus		
Year 3-6		Period	K- 2		Period
8.25am		School starts	8.30am		School starts
8.30am	9.30am	Period 1	8.40am	9.40 am	Period 1
9.30am	10.30am	Period 2	9.40am	10.40am	Period 2
10.30 am	10.50am	Recess	10 40am	11.00pm	Recess
10.50pm	11.50am	Period 3	11.00am	12.00pm	Period 3
11.50 -	12.50pm	Period 4	12.00pm	1.00pm	Period 4
12.50pm	1.30pm	Lunch	1.00pm	1.40pm	Lunch
1.30pm	1.45pm	Period 5	1.40pm	2.00pm	Period 5
1.45pm	2.45pm	Period 6	2.00pm	3.00pm	Period 6

School Starting times and playtimes are being modified to accommodate the shuttle bus and in response to family's feedback about time management.