



Heartlinks Highlights Video

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MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video

School Attendance & Learning - In the video this week we discuss the importance of school attendance. One day missed may not seem like a lot but over time these do add up and impact upon student learning. Our video finishes with a highlight from a Year 2 music lesson this week.

Kindergarten and New Families Welcome BBQ and Information Evening

On Wednesday night we welcomed new families and our Kindergarten 2020 families at the BBQ and Kindergarten Information Evening. It was great to meet and chat with many new families who have joined our MTP community. Following the BBQ, we held another successful information session for Kindergarten parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working staff at MTP for preparing the BBQ and for the preparation that goes into the information sessions, as well as the child minding that was provided by teachers during the information session.

Congratulations Miss Hull - Mrs Edwards

On behalf of the whole MTP community, we would like to wish Miss Kirstie Hull all the very best as she marries her fiance Luke on Sunday. Miss Hull is taking a short break from Kindergarten and when she returns it will be as Mrs Edwards. We wish Kirstie and Luke a lifetime of love and happiness.

Dr Justin Coulson - Visit to MTP Tuesday 24th March - Parent only Workshop 7pm

On Tuesday 24th March Dr Justin Coulson will be working with the students in Years 5-6 during the day and the parents and carers of our community at 7pm. These workshops aim to provide insights and strategies on positive ways to help your child behave. This is a fantastic opportunity for **all parents and carers K-6** to be a part of this informative and interactive workshop. Please feel free to invite along interested family and friends.



"Dr Justin Coulson is one of very few people in Australia with a PhD in Positive Psychology - and the ONLY person in the country (and almost the world) whose PhD includes a careful look at the intersection of Positive Psychology and relationships, particularly in family life. One of Australia's most respected and popular corporate and education keynote speakers, facilitators, authors, and researchers, he has spoken to and worked with tens of thousands of people aiming to improve relationships, meaning, and wellbeing in leadership, education and especially in family life. Addressing the issues that matter most, Justin uses his analytical and practical approach to address challenges facing today's workplaces and educational institutes."

Catholic Schools Week and Open School session for prospective families 2021

The 1st to the 7th of March marks Catholic Schools Week. Our school is currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2021. If you know of family or friends who may be interested in visiting the school for the information sessions, they will be held on **Thursday, 5th March at 9:00am and a repeat evening session at 6:00pm**. If you could please contact the school office to help us with an indication of numbers (names not required) that would be greatly appreciated.



"Mary is our mother, the cause of our joy. Being a mother, I have never had difficulty in talking with Mary and feeling close to her."

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, 17th March**
Parent Information Evening—
Religious Education—7:00pm
- **Tuesday, 24th March**
Dr Justin Coulson Parent
Workshop—7:00pm
- **Friday, 27th March**
Pupil Free Day—no students



Welcomeasy

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Welcomeasy, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

Cuppa with the Principal - Parent Forum

Today we had the Term 1 'Cuppa with the Principal' parent forum. It was great to see new faces of our 2020 Kindergarten students join us this morning and share in a discussion about our learning community at MTP.

Home/school communication guidelines and Seesaw

As you know there are regular forms of communication between home and school, notably the **MTP Skoolbag app** and the fortnightly **Heartlinks school newsletter** which contains a lot of information in regards to events coming up in the school. These two forms of communication will remain the main channels of communication regarding school events in 2020.

The Seesaw app was introduced to MTP last year as a means for your child to develop a digital portfolio of their work across the year. It is not a means of communication about other issues that arise from day to day with your child's teacher, e.g. my child lost their hat. Our teachers will not be responding to messages outside of normal working hours.

If anything does need to be communicated you are very welcome to call the school and a message will be passed onto your child's teacher, who will return your call as soon as possible. If you wish to come up for an interview with your child's teacher you are very welcome to do so by calling the school office and arranging a mutually convenient time to meet. **Teachers will not be responding to questions and messages through Seesaw.**

School email: motherteres@parra.catholic.edu.au

As indicated in our previous newsletter, each stage has a relevant Stage Coordinator who may also be able to assist you with any inquiries this year.

Kindergarten Coordinator - Mrs Katherine Stennett
Stage 1 Coordinator (Years 1 and 2) - Mrs Maree Grainger
Stage 2 Coordinator (Years 3 and 4) - Mr Owen Wallis
Stage 3 Coordinator (Years 5 and 6) - Mrs Maria Boyd

I thank you for your understanding on this matter and for respecting the professional boundaries of the staff at Mother Teresa Primary.

Parent University - Term 1 - Religious Education- Tuesday 17th March 7pm



Each term at MTP, we run parent workshops or 'Parent University' which is an opportunity for our teachers to share the learning goals and information about our approach to teaching and learning. This term on **Tuesday 17th March at 7pm**, we are very excited to be working with the other schools in the Westmead Catholic Community for a parent workshop with a Religious Education focus on the new RE curriculum in the Parramatta Diocese. The workshop will be run by theologian Dr Anthony Maher. More details about this event will be provided closer to the date.



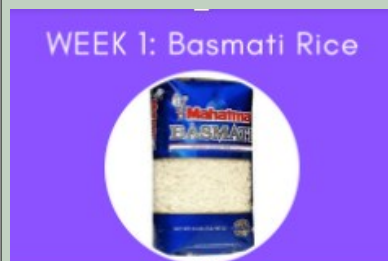
School Times and Procedures

A reminder to all families that school begins at 8.35am and that playground supervision begins at 8.05am. **There is no supervision before 8.05am** so we request that other arrangements be made if you need to drop your child at school before this time. We do have COSHC (Catholic out of School Hours Care) available on our site and you can contact the Mother Teresa COSHC manager on 0418 153 894.

MTP Staff Development Day - Friday 27th March - Pupil Free Day

Each year, schools in NSW are allocated 6 Professional Development Days across the year. Most schools use some of their days at the beginning and end of each year as we did with our Mathematical Assessment Interviews last week. On **Friday 27th of March** our teaching staff will be attending the MANSW (Mathematical Association of NSW) Conference as this aligns with one of our major goals in Mathematics this year at MTP. A Staff Development Day (SDD) is a pupil free day, this means students do not attend school on this day. COSHC (Catholic Out of School Hours Care) will operate on this day and more information is now available from the COSHC manager for parents about this optional service.

This Lent as we remember the enormous sacrifice our Lord made on Good Friday please consider showing compassion to those in need.



Fleeing a home that is no longer safe is one of the most difficult decisions a person can make. It's one made that much harder when you are forced to live below the poverty line in a country you wish to make your home. Unfortunately it's a reality facing many people seeking asylum in Australia—people who often find it difficult to afford basic food, goods and groceries.

Jesuit Refugee Service provides food and essential items to people in this situation through our foodbank. There are roughly 120-140 people who come through our door for this support each month, representing over 350+ family members. The JRS foodbank offers a dignified experience for the people we serve by allowing people to do their own 'shopping' from our stocked shelves and fridges. People select what they want and need

from us, in this way we provide a 'hand up' rather than a 'hand out.'

Due to the lack of support and resolution for our clients, we are seeing more clients driven to destitution. Our Foodbank is literally cleaned out each week due to an increased need for food items among our clients. We continue to depend on the generosity of schools, parishes, and community groups to keep the Foodbank stocked.

I would like to invite the Mother Teresa school community to participate again in the Lenten food drive again. Our students were incredibly generous in donating items over the past years.

Fundraising Day - Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve

Today we had our fundraising event for the victims of the Bushfires that have devastated the lives of many Australians over the past few months. Thanks to our wonderful MTP students for their enthusiastic participation in this event and well done to our MTP artists who entered the competition to design a piece of art to convey their feelings about the bushfires. We will be announcing the students whose artwork was selected for display in the Parent Foyer of our school shortly.

Defibrillator available in the MTP School Office

Last year, our staff received training in the use of a defibrillator. Our school has a defibrillator and in the event that one is required, it is kept in our school administration office. All CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta) schools now have a defibrillator.

Sporting News



Cumberland Swimming Carnival:

Congratulations to all our students who competed at the Zone Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt pool Wednesday, 12th February. They all did so well and showed excellent sportsmanship. Out of the 15 students who competed, 9 students moved on to Diocesan Carnival, including two relay teams. A special mention to Aaron K who was awarded 11years Boys Age Champion. A special thank you to our amazing parent helpers who ran the very successful carnival.

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Another great day of swimming for MTP. On Thursday 20th February, we represented the Cumberland team at Blacktown Aquatic Centre and you can tell by our huge smiles that we had an awesome day!

All our swimmers put in their best efforts to compete at this level of competition. A special congratulations goes to Aaron K who will compete at the MacKillop Carnival in March. What an amazing effort by all our swimmers!! We are all so proud.

Second Hand Uniforms - Facebook Group

In response to parent requests for a communication channel for parents to sell or donate second hand uniforms, Jodie Skinner has volunteered to organise a closed Facebook group. Jodie and Mrs Devlin will be the regulators of the group with conditions of use detailed below:

- This is to assist parents in buying/swapping/selling second hand uniforms only. No school discussions.
- Uniforms must be clean, no stains, holes or fraying and in good condition. No socks, shoes, hats or hair items.
- MTP or Admin of this page are in no way responsible for purchases
- No money is to be transacted via children.
- Please arrange collection/payment from Parent to Parent. Suggest direct deposit.
- Please add a photo of uniform (no photos of children wearing), with size of item.
- Please keep prices realistic. No "make an offer" listings.
- Please comment sold if you would like to purchase. Please comment sold pending if you would like to ask a question.

This is a closed group and parents will need to request access to become a member. Search facebook MTP - Second Hand Uniforms. <https://m.facebook.com/groups/230475380863221>

Term 1 School Fees

Term 1 school fee statements are being sent via mail by the Catholic Education Office. Fees are due by the 18th March 2020, unless you have an arrangement in place. If you are having difficulty with paying your fees by the due date, please do not hesitate to contact Judy Attard on 8841 2600.

Sibling Duty

At Mother Teresa Primary, we offer a duty, called "sibling duty" for students at Mother Teresa Primary who have older siblings at Catherine McAuley High School or Parramatta Marist High. At 2.45pm the Mother Teresa siblings students wait in the area outside the school office, in the shade, and are offered a variety of books to read quietly and are supervised by a teacher. When it is closer to the time that the older siblings are dismissed from their High Schools, around 3.10pm, we escort the siblings out to the bus shelter area, where they are collected by their older brothers and sisters. If you have children at Mother Teresa and also one of the High Schools, it would be helpful if you waited to collect all the children at 3.15pm onwards, rather than having to pick up the MTP students at 2.45pm and wait for the High Schools to be dismissed. Many thanks for your consideration.

Important Dates:

- 'Parent Information Evening - Religious Education - Tuesday 17th March 7pm
- Parent Workshop with Dr Justin Coulson - Tuesday 24th March 7pm (all parents and friends welcome)
- Staff Development Day (Student Free Day) Friday 27th March
- Last day of Term 1 - Thursday 9th April (Holy Thursday)
- First day of Term 2 - Monday 27th April

WHS - Safety for all at Mother Teresa Primary

- Please do not send glass containers, like glass bottles, with your child to school.

Strive for Higher Things at Catherine McAuley Westmead



Enrolling now for 2021 - Applications close 27th March 2020

OPEN EVENING Wednesday 4th March 2020 4pm - 7pm

Catherine McAuley Westmead, 2 Darcy Rd, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



CERDON COLLEGE Merrylands

Aspire to Great Heights



Open Day

Tuesday 3 March 2020

Come along anytime between

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sherwood Road Merrylands

Phone: (02) 8724 7300

**Enrolment Packages available
for Year 7 2021 and 2022**

Dr JUSTIN
COULSON *presents*



POSITIVE WAYS

TO HELP CHILDREN BEHAVE



Mother Teresa Primary
creative minds - gentle hearts

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2020

7.00—9.00pm

**Mother Teresa Primary School,
2A Darcy Road Westmead**

✉ info@justincoulson.com [f /happyfamilies.au](https://www.facebook.com/happyfamilies.au) [t @JustinCoulson](https://twitter.com/JustinCoulson) [i @DrJustinCoulson](https://www.instagram.com/DrJustinCoulson)

Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using **one** of the following methods:

1. Online: log the absence directly using *the SkoolBag App*
2. Email: the school at motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au
3. Telephone: the school office on 8841 2600 during office hours 8am - 3.30pm
4. Note sent back to school with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner every day 