



Heartlinks Highlights Video

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MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video - Mathematics - the 'MAI' and formative assessment

In the video this week we explain the MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interview) every child in our school participates in at the start of every year. This one on one assessment interview provides a comprehensive profile of your child as a Mathematician and allows us to measure growth in the number domains of counting, place value, addition & subtraction and multiplication & division over time. We explain how teachers assess your child in Mathematics at specific points in time, like the MAI, but also about how we assess their ongoing understanding and development in Mathematics.

In the video we explain the website 'Numeracy at home' as a fantastic resource for ideas to assist your child in their development of concepts in Mathematics. The link is available [here](https://www.numeracyathome.com/11-ways-to-maths):

<https://www.numeracyathome.com/11-ways-to-maths>

Ash Wednesday & Opening School Mass

We are now in the liturgical season of Lent, which began this week on Ash Wednesday. Some Year 6 student leader representatives, Mrs Dennis and myself travelled with other members of the Westmead Catholic Community to the Sacred Heart Church and participated in Mass, led by Fr Walter. The ashes which were blessed by Fr Walter at the Church were then used in liturgies back at Mother Teresa Primary. I would like to thank Mrs Gaye Dennis, our acting REC (Religious Education Coordinator) for her hard work and preparation of these liturgies during this important time in our Church calendar.



Last week we gathered as a school to celebrate Mass with Fr Walter as a celebration of our school year. During this Mass, our Year 6 leaders were inducted



as student leaders of our school and their Kindergarten buddies, along with other new students in Years 1 to 5, were also officially welcomed into the Mother Teresa Community. A recording of this Mass is available for our parent community on our school Facebook site.



"Thoughtfulness is the beginning of great sanctity"

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- Friday, 5th March
Online 'Cuppa with the Principal' Parent Forum online - Friday, 5th March—9:00am
- Monday, 15th March
Online Parent University - Reading - Monday, 15th March—6:00pm
- Friday, 26th March
School Photos (Full school uniform)

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Congratulations MTP Staff

Whilst I am always very proud of the hard working staff at MTP, it is always great to be acknowledged and recognised for their efforts by the broader educational community. Recently some of our staff have been selected for their expertise, passion and enthusiasm to participate in educational research or projects for communities beyond our own school.

*Mrs Jody Sultana (Year 3 teacher) was selected in 2020 to create literacy resources for teachers Australia wide through the **Reading Australia** enterprise. Jody was recognised by leading academics in literacy for her creativity and commitment in creating classroom literacy resources to match quality Australian children's literature. Mrs Sultana has again been invited to contribute her expertise to Reading Australia in 2021 - congratulations Mrs Jody Sultana!*

*Mrs Katherine Stennett (Assistant Principal and Inquiry Coordinator) has been selected as part of a small group of expert teachers across NSW for the NSW Curriculum review. The TENs project (**Teacher Expert Network - NSW**) involves an extensive review with other educators and academics currently reviewing the NSW curriculum. To be identified and selected to be a part of this NSW Government initiative is a great honour and we congratulate Mrs Katherine Stennett.*

*Members of the MTP Leadership Team have also been selected to be a part of a National education project partnered with the **University of Melbourne** and leading education academics from across the world. Only 37 schools in Australia have been selected to be a part of this project and I'm delighted that Mother Teresa Primary is one of them. Mr Owen Wallis, Mrs Maree Grainger, Mrs Katherine Stennett and myself will be working closely with academic partners from the University of Melbourne to explore "New Metrics" for measuring success for our students into the future. We look forward to sharing with you our progress in this inquiry throughout the year. Parramatta Marist High was also selected as one the schools involved in this project.*

Catholic Schools Week and MTP School Visit session for prospective families 2022

Originally we had planned to have two 'open school' sessions during Catholic Schools week on Thursday 11th March. On advice from CEDP (Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta) we will now be publishing a video in Week 7 (8th - 13th March - Catholic Schools Week) for future families who may be interested in attending Mother Teresa Primary. We will also invite new families to book an abridged school tour during Catholic Schools Week. Current rules mean we cannot have adults moving through the learning studios during the day whilst students are in the classrooms but we can have very small groups tour as long as we can maintain COVID restrictions on group gatherings and also spacing for adults. New families who do not already have a student at MTP can contact the school on 8841 2600 to book in your tour time. *Our school is currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2022, if your family is considering enrolling a younger sibling we would strongly encourage you to submit an enrolment form before the 26th March 2021. Interviews will be held early in Term 2 and letters of offer shortly after the interviews.*

Cuppa with the Principal - Parent Forum - 9:00am Friday, 5th March

At Mother Teresa Primary each term we hold a 'Cuppa with the Principal' informal parent forum where Mrs Stennett and myself host a morning tea and parents are invited to share ideas, ask questions and also get to know each other. Last year we had some face to face sessions and some online sessions - some were in the evenings and some during the day. This term we will be running another 'Cuppa with the Principal' session online during the day on Friday 5th March at 9am - a zoom link will be shared shortly. All parents are invited to join!

MTP Parent University Online - Term 1 - Helping my child with reading - Monday, 15th March 6:00pm

Each term at Mother Teresa Primary we run parent information evenings focussing on one aspect of our school Formation or Learning goals. These evenings have been run both online and face to face in previous years. Our latest advice from CEDP regarding parent gatherings in one space indicates it would be better to run the Parent University as an online meeting. A link for the Parent University will be shared with all families shortly. This Parent University will focus on the teaching of reading and strategies to help your child with reading at home. All parents are very welcome to join us online for this information session.

School Times and Procedures

Just a friendly 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.



Congratulations MTP Swimmers - Congratulations Aaron K!

On Wednesday 17th February 15 students from MTP represented our school at the Cumberland Diocesan Swimming carnival held at Mount Druitt pool. The students cheered each other on creating a lovely atmosphere for all. Due to covid restrictions results were not posted on the day, but will be forthcoming within the next few days and notes will go home to those who have made it to the next level. A special mention to **Aaron K** who participated in every event for his age group, winning **Age Champion** for the U/12 boys.

Thank you to all the parents who transported their children to the event as well as Mrs Mardini for assisting as an official on the day.



Diocesan Sports News

For all the latest dates and information for diocesan sports please check the [PDCPSSC website](#).

Rachael Thompson Sport Coordinator & PE teacher.



Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for justice.

Each year brings new challenges. We need to find ways to overcome the tricky situations in which we find ourselves, and mostly we can do this on our own or with the help of our family and friends. Some people are faced with much harder challenges such as poverty, inequality, and injustice: refugees, asylum seekers, the homeless, the unwanted. Helping all of these can become overwhelming. This new year is a new opportunity to show the world the face of compassion and justice. It is a chance to reflect and search for a better way, and that is, to *live for others*. We will continue our commitment to supporting families in need through the local refugee service, with our **"Be more"** campaign. We will aspire not to have more but to be more. This is where we

ask you to add **ONE** extra grocery item every week to your shopping to help desperate families - This week's items are Basmati Rice and/or Tuna in Oil. **Project Compassion** will provide another opportunity for generosity of heart and spirit. Mother Teresa tells us: **"Together we can do great things."**

God Bless.

Gaye Dennis Acting REC

6 WEEKS OF LENT
GIVE 6 THINGS
This Lent, donate 1 item each week to give to refugees living in this community.

WEEK 1: Basmati Rice



Your donation goes to the Jesuit Refugee Service's (JRS) COVID-safe Refugee Foodbank.

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GIVE 6 THINGS
This Lent, donate 1 item each week to give to refugees living in this community.

WEEK 2: Tuna in Oil



Your donation goes to the Jesuit Refugee Service's (JRS) COVID-safe Refugee Foodbank.

Important Dates:

- "Cuppa with the Principal" Parent Forum (**online**) - Friday, 5th March—9:00am
- Parent University (**online**) - Reading - Monday, 15th March—6:00pm
- Last day of Term 1 (Holy Thursday) 1st April

WHS - Site safety

- Please **DO NOT** ask children or staff to step onto the road between cars to access the boot to pack or retrieve bags. This is **VERY** dangerous and could result in tragedy - we all need to take responsibility for the safety of others on our site.
- Please **DO NOT** ask your child to exit your vehicle at Kiss and Drop on the right hand side into traffic - this is very dangerous for young children. If you are using the Kiss and Drop zone, please don't get out of your vehicle yourself - please move to the parking bays and walk your child across the road from there, if it is necessary for your child to exit on the right hand side of the vehicle.

Justin Coulson's
happy families

Mother Teresa Primary School has teamed up with Happy Families to help support our ongoing commitment to wellbeing.

Your **FREE HAPPY FAMILIES PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP** will help you tackle all of your common parenting predicaments including:

- ▶ Sibling Rivalry
- ▶ Managing Screens
- ▶ Building Resilience
- ▶ Dealing with Anxiety... and more!



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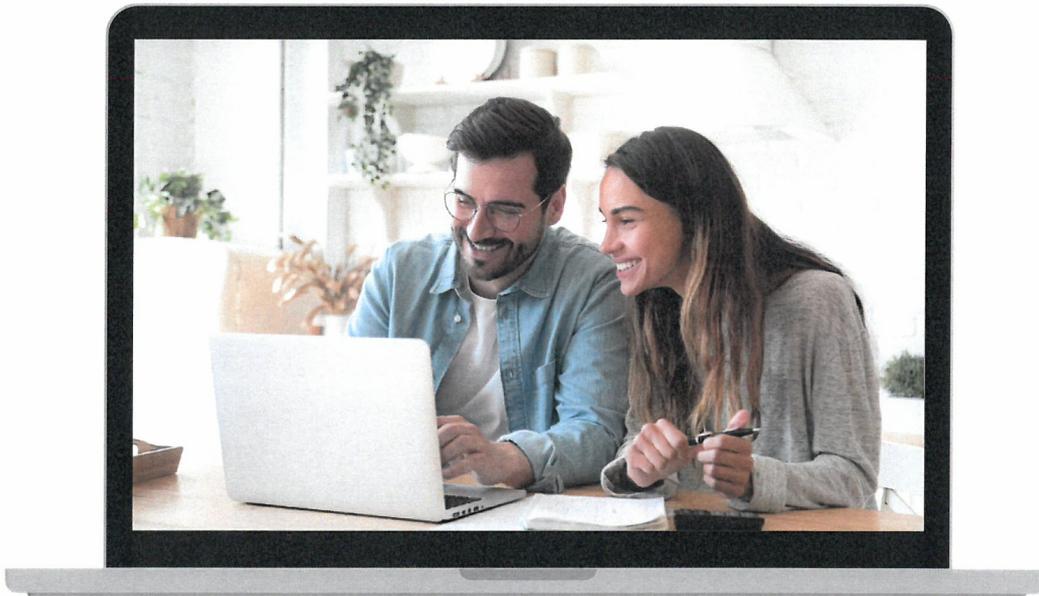




positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

Location:

 New South Wales
via zoom online

Date:

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)

http://



For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au
or contact Alison Macrae amacrae@autismspectrum.org.au



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Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

During the online workshops, we will cover four topics:

- diversity of autism
- working together with your child's school
- understanding sensory processing
- understanding behaviour.

These workshops are part of a series of sessions but you can choose if you would like to register for each session or just the individual ones you are able to join.

**Please note that this is not a webinar but is an online workshop where we will work collaboratively together online across the sessions.*

Location:

NEW SOUTH WALES

via zoom online

Dates & Times (AEDT):

Diversity of Autism

Tues 2 Feb, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sensory Processing

Tues 9 Feb, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Understanding Behaviour

Tues 16 Feb, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

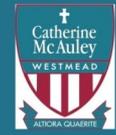
Working Together

Tues 23 Feb, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

http://



For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au or contact Rachael Dillon rdillon@autismspectrum.org.au



Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolling Now for Year 7 2022



Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022 (First Round Offers) are due by Friday, 19th March 2021.
Enrolment packs are available at your primary school office or by visiting the Catherine McAuley Westmead website.

The School Open Afternoon scheduled for Wednesday, 10th March 2021 has been cancelled. Instead the school is offering small group school tours over a number of days in early March. Book a place on a school tour by visiting the school website under Enrolment/Visit Our School.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au | Telephone: 9849 9100




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APRIL 7TH/8TH & 14TH/15TH 2021

AGES K - YR 7



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Join us at our free **OPEN DAY** on February 13 or 20
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Greystanes NSW 2145
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Games are played Sunday

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Socks/Shorts/
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For More Information
Contact Tony 0414 351 221





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