

14th May 2021



Heartlinks Highlights Video

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MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video - A celebration of Mums

Last Friday we were lucky enough to gather together as a community to celebrate the gift of Motherhood and thank all the wonderful Mums and mother figures in our lives. In our Catholic Church, May is a special month of honour to Mary, the Mother of God. In our Heartlinks Highlights video we hear thoughts and reflections on our Mums, from some of our MTP students.

Writing and assessment at MTP

All parents would be aware of the heightened media coverage of learning this week during the 2021 NAPLAN testing period. As parents know from our Parent Universities held each term, our focus on teaching, learning and assessing never ceases - we call our most effective assessment formative assessment - we know from research and practice this ongoing feedback loop has the greatest impact on student learning. The NAPLAN assessments simply give a snapshot of learning on one day which supports the data we continue to collect throughout the year.

An example of this ongoing assessment each term at MTP occurs when students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participate in a "cold write" activity early every term. All students from K-6 get to 'see' or 'participate' in the same stimulus material, e.g. a picture, a sound, a scene outside. From there, students produce a piece of writing (or text) of their choice. These writing samples are moderated across each grade, where teachers grade the writing against the [National Literacy Progressions](#) for 'Creating Texts' (CrT) from Level 1 (sample indicator: draws pictures and shapes) to Level 11 (sample indicator: in imaginative writing uses recurring imagery for cohesion). This data about your child's performance in the cold write is used to track growth within and across years. The cold write for this term was a mystery scene set up outside, where the children got to spend some time observing and taking notes in their own 'Writer's Notebooks'. The children then converted these notes into their own stories. Check out the scene below which was used for our Term 2 'cold write' experience across the school.



"We cannot condemn, judge or speak words that might hurt... By what right, then, can we condemn anyone?"

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- Friday, 28th May
Crazy Hair Day
Project Compassion Fundraiser
- Wednesday, 16th June
Celebration of Learning
3 time slots
4:30pm / 5:00pm / 5:30pm
(Registration required)
- Wednesday, 16th June
Parent University—Mathematics—
6:00pm (Registration Required)
- Friday, 18th June
Farewell Liturgy—Mrs Maria Boyd
9:30am
- Thursday, 24th June
Last day—Term 2
- Friday, 25th June
Staff Development Day—No
Students at school



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Extra-curricular Creative Arts for MTP 2021 - Choir and Instrumental Learning Exhibitions

Some parents may remember that in pre-COVID years our school choir participated in the Diocesan Primary Eisteddfod through the Diocesan Creative Arts team called CAPTIVATE. Our school has previously performed well and the students have gained confidence in performing in front of other schools. Later this year our school will be offering our students in the school choir the opportunity of performing for other schools in the Diocesan Choral Exhibition. We are also planning on inviting students interested in performing in an instrumental learning exhibition to form a school ensemble. More details will be shared with the community soon.

Celebrations and community gatherings moving forward

It was great to have so many parents and carers join us last week for our Mother's Day liturgy in the Morley Centre last week. With the current COVID restrictions we are making plans for community events moving forward, however, as you would all understand, if COVID restrictions change from time to time, we will inform the community of new arrangements as soon as possible.

Term 2 Parent Forum - 'Cuppa with the Principal'

Each term we have an informal parent forum with myself and Mrs. Katherine Stennett (Assistant Principal) at MTP. Last year during COVID we tried online zoom forums which were successful and last term we conducted another successful online parent forum zoom. This term we are hoping to return to our **face-to-face "Cuppa with the Principal"** parent forum - *please note if there are changes in relation to COVID restrictions and schools, we will still go ahead with the forum but run it as an online zoom event. All parents are warmly invited to attend - this is a great opportunity to meet other MTP parents, discuss initiatives regarding the learning at school and ask questions regarding the school.*

Term 2 Parent University - Mathematics

We are hoping to run an 'in person' Parent University this term, as we did last term. As Parent University is an indoor gathering in one place, parents will need to be registered to attend to ensure we can follow the COVID safety plan and current restrictions on physical distancing. Information about registering for the Parent University will be shared closer to the date.

Term 2 'Celebration of Learning'

The 'Celebration of Learning', where parents are invited to see their child's Learning Studio and are led on a tour of the studio by their child, will also have to be **timed and registered**, as with all grades and Learning Studio spaces, the COVID restrictions about physical distancing will need to be maintained. More information about registering for the 'Celebration of Learning' and the 'Parent University' will be shared with parents soon.

At this stage we plan on holding three time slots for the Celebration of Learning on Wednesday 16th June at 4.30pm, 5.00pm or 5.30pm. The Parent University for Term 2 will focus on Mathematics and will be at 6.00pm, also on Wednesday 16th June, for those parents interested.



Students in Stage Two wonder about prayer, including the origin and meaning of certain prayers and how prayer experiences provide opportunities to communicate with God.

Transformative learning invites students to encounter God through prayer and praxis.

Enduring understanding is that all relationships are unique and require nurturing through reciprocity, love, trust, humility and perseverance.

Overarching Questions:
How Do We Live on Prayer?
The Statement of Inquiry:
There are different ways of communicating with God.

The students have the opportunity to add to their understandings throughout the term. Here are some examples of Student Voice from Year 3 and 4 students:

We communicate with Body actions; when you pray you don't always talk because God always knows what is in your heart. Grace

Sometimes praying is just listening for God. Jacob

Intercessions are prayers when we are asking for God's help like at reconciliation. Ethan J

It is not praying if you know the words off by heart and not thinking about the meaning of what you are saying. Misha

God Bless.
Mrs Gaye Dennis
Acting REC



Important Dates:

- **Crazy Hair Day** - Project Compassion Fundraiser Friday, 28th May
- **Farewell liturgy for Mrs Maria Boyd** - Friday, 18th June 9.30am
- **Celebration of Learning** - 3 time slots - **Wednesday, 16th June (4.30pm or 5.00pm or 5.30pm)** - registration required
- **Parent University - Mathematics** - **Wednesday, 16th June 6.00pm** - registration required
- **Last day of Term 2** - Thursday, 24th June (SDD on Friday, 25th June - no students)

WHS - Site safety

- A reminder that the use of the Staff Carpark in the afternoons requires ALL MTP families using this facility in the afternoons to be vigilant about safety - this means **holding your child's hand** whenever you are in the staff car park. Please be respectful of the High School staff as this is a shared facility.

Mother Teresa Primary Cross Country Team

On Tuesday 4th May, 34 students from MTP competed in the Parramatta Diocese Cross Country Event held at Eastern Creek Motorsport Park. Our students took to the challenge with vigour and despite the drizzly day all students competed to the best of their ability. This year, for the first time in the history of Mother Teresa Primary, we have a student who has done extremely well. **Lucas J** (Year 4) comfortably strode down the home straight and with fists pumping the sky, finished his 2km race a true champion in first place. We are all so proud of his achievement and it is one for the record books! He will continue to the next level competing at the NSWPSCCC Cross Country Championships on 8th June. Congratulations Lucas!! For full results from the day see the Multi Sport Australia website and follow the instructions

<https://www.multisportaustralia.com.au/>



Throughout the year, many students have been participating in the Diocesan Sporting Trials that are held for Stage 3 students across many sports. This year we have two students who have advanced to the second level of this trial. **Alessia** (Year 5) has taken one step closer to being part of the Parramatta Diocesan Touch Football Team and has been offered a chance to compete in the second round of trials held May 28th. Also, **Max** (Year 5) travelled all the way to the Canberra National Hockey Center in the ACT and faced fierce competition. Maxime played strong and represented Mother Teresa Primary with pride. Well done Max! He is looking forward to trying again next year.



Justin Coulson's happy families

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