

4th March 2022



Heartlinks Highlights Video

[Watch Video](#)

MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video - The Reading-Writing Connection

This week in our Heartlinks Highlights video we explore how reading helps your child to become a better writer. We look at the traits great writers use to create quality texts and how we teach the children at MTP to become great writers themselves. Each term every child in the school participates in a "cold write" assessment, and we showcase three MTP authors responding to the same stimulus.

A prayer for peace

These past few weeks have presented enormous challenges for the people of the Ukraine. Pope Francis has asked us all to pray for peace in the world,
"In times of trouble, we call on the tender mercy of God ... to guide our feet to the way of peace (Lk 1:78-79). May our prayers, joined with those of people around the world, help guide those waging war to end the meaningless suffering and restore peace." As part of our prayer next Monday morning, we will join together in a prayer for peace - peace in the world and peace and forgiveness in our own lives.

We also pray for those families impacted by the recent flooding in NSW and Queensland. *May they grow in awareness of God's loving presence during their time of need.*

Catholic Schools Week 2022

Next week is Catholic Schools week; a time when all Catholic Schools in NSW celebrate their focus on providing a quality Catholic Education for all. At Mother Teresa Primary, we are offering two information sessions for families who may be interested in joining our community in 2023. Please pass on this information to any interested neighbours, family or friends. The two information sessions offered next week are **9:00am Thursday, 10th March** and **6:00pm Thursday, 10th March**. To assist us in resourcing for these sessions, could any interested families please email the school (motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au) or call the school office on 8841 2600 to indicate numbers attending. We are delighted to be having some members of our Year 6 Communications team and our Year 6 Captains addressing our visitors at these sessions, in conjunction with Fr Walter and MTP staff.

Any families wishing to enrol for Kindergarten 2023 are invited to complete their enrolment forms by **Wednesday, 30th March 2022**. Shortlisting and interviews will follow early next term.



"Some people come in our life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons."

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- **Monday, 7th March**
 'Cuppa with the Principal' Parent Forum online
 9:00am
- **Saturday, 12th March and Sunday, 13th March until Saturday, 30th April and Sunday, 1st May**
Sacrament of 1st Eucharist
 Enrolment Forms for 1st Eucharist can be collected whilst attending Mass during the above weekend Masses.
 Further information can be found on the Sacred Heart Parish Website: [Click here](#)
- **Wednesday, 30th March**
 Celebration of Learning
 3 Sessions—4:30pm / 5:00pm / 5:30pm
- **Wednesday, 30th March**
 Parent University
 6:00pm
- **Friday, 8th April**
 Last day of Term 1
 Friday 8th April

Important notice for boys in Year 6 enrolling to Parramatta Marist High next year:

2023 Enrolment at Parramatta Marist High School

Parramatta Marist High School are currently accepting applications for year 7, 2023. Application packs are available for download from the Parramatta Marist website (<https://www.parramarist.catholic.edu.au/>) or can be collected from the school office. Completed application forms can be lodged at the school office between 9:30 am - 2:30 pm on school days, **applications close at 2:00 pm on Friday 25 March 2022.**

COVID Updates

Thank you to all in the community for your continued support in keeping our community safe. As you know, there have been recent changes to the COVID 19 restrictions for schools. From Monday, it will no longer be mandatory for Primary School staff to wear masks. We are also exploring community events in the coming weeks, where we can join together again. Now that we have commenced the liturgical season of Lent, Mrs. Dennis, our Religious Education Coordinator, is working with the students and staff to prepare liturgies for Holy Week - we would like to invite our parents to join us in prayer at these liturgies. As Easter falls in the next school holidays, we will be celebrating a Resurrection Mass in the season of Easter in our first week back of Term 2, and we would love parents to join us for this Eucharistic Celebration. We are also looking at other ways to celebrate the Easter season, like an Easter Hat parade early next term (more details soon).

At the end of each term, we invite parents into their child's Learning Studio for a "celebration of learning". This term our "Celebration of Learning" will be on **Wednesday, 30th March in three sessions (4:30pm or 5:00pm or 5:30 pm)**. Your child is invited to take you on a tour of their Learning Studio and showcase their learning in all Key Learning Areas for the term. Last year we asked parents to book into one of three sessions to avoid large groups of adults gathering in the confined space of the Learning Studio. More information about our Term 1 Celebration of Learning, and booking information, will be shared with families soon.

Thank you for your support in using the Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) - as previously communicated, the twice weekly monitoring is no longer required but the RATs may be used if your child is displaying flu like symptoms. Please keep your child at home if they are sick or displaying flu like symptoms, even if they have tested negative on a RAT. Thank you so much to the families who have quickly notified the school when their child/children have tested positive. Students learning at home because they are either positive to COVID19 or they are a close family contact can be supported with some online learning activities.

As a result of eased restrictions for COVID 19 we will no longer be offering the 2.30pm "early finishers" option from Monday 7th March. From Monday, all students will finish at the regular time of 2.45 pm. The children will be walked out to the "Kiss and Drop" zone and we ask that parents who are waiting move to the back of the Kiss and Drop zone to collect their child. Thanks so much to our Kindy parents who have already been following these procedures, and not taking children out of the line, as they move to the Kiss and Drop area. Of course, children waiting for older brothers and sisters at Marist and McAuley, will be supervised in the "siblings" waiting area until they are collected by their older siblings. If you do have older children at Marist or McAuley, please do not come and wait in the Mother Teresa "Kiss and Drop" zone before 3.15 pm.

Term 1 "Cuppa with the Principal" - Face to face & online

We previously advertised the Term 1 "Cuppa with the Principal" as an online event, however, now that the restrictions have eased, we can host this as a face to face event at school on Monday. I appreciate that some parents may still prefer to use the online option and we will also provide this as well - links will be shared with the community today. This event is a chance to informally meet other parents and discuss plans, ideas, suggestions, and offers of assistance for our school community. We will commence around 9 am on Monday 7th March in the Staffroom.

Congratulations Mr. Owen Wallis

Mr Owen Wallis, our Mother Teresa Primary lead numeracy teacher and coach, has been offered a dual role by the Diocese of Parramatta, continuing to work with Mother Teresa Primary but also with other teachers and schools across our Diocese. This specialist role is in his capacity as a Numeracy Coach for a CEDP trial intervention, called EMU (Exploring Mathematical Understanding) Level 2. This intervention allows Mr Wallis to work shoulder-to-shoulder with classroom teachers from our school and other Diocesan schools and with our students, developing deep knowledge, skills and understanding in Mathematics. We are delighted that Mr. Wallis has been offered this opportunity to work with educators across our Diocese for 2022, but will also be based at Mother Teresa Primary for part of his role.

Parent University - Term 1 - Mathematics - Wednesday, 30th March 6:00 pm

Each term we offer a parent information session which focuses on an aspect of learning at Mother Teresa Primary. This term our session will be run by Mr Owen Wallis (Lead Numeracy), MTP staff, as well as Teaching Educators from CEDP who currently work with Mother Teresa Primary teachers. The focus will be on our 2022 Learning Goal which is focussed on Mathematics, in particular developing number sense. All parents are invited to join us for this evening on Wednesday 30th April at 6 pm following our Term 1 Celebration of Learning sessions. As COVID restrictions have now eased, we will be having this Parent University as a face to face session.



The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

The 2021 Challenge kicked off **Monday, 28th February** and closes **Friday, 19th August** (midnight) for MTP students.

How can my child get involved? Just click on the link at [NSW PRC](#) and log on to begin (Kindergarten and new families) should have recently received their log in details. There is also a new student portal which allows students to look for books that are on the challenge list and add them directly to their reading log once read.

If you have any questions, please see either Mrs Rawlings or Mrs Halligan.

This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent and many of our classes spoke about "Lenten Promises". Fr. Walter spoke to us in his homily about the possibility of "giving extra" rather than "giving up" - extra time for prayer, extra blessings for others, extra actions for those in need.



This year's theme for our **JRS collection** is "The Gift of Giving". Over the next 6 weeks, we can help support people in our community by donating these essential items; Basmati Rice, Cooking Oil, Dried Lentils and Chickpeas, Coconut Milk, Shampoo and Conditioner, Laundry Powder and Dishwashing Liquid.

We are asking 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 Cooking Oil. These can be brought to our school office.



Project Compassion will provide another opportunity for generosity of heart and spirit. We are going ahead with donations via the QKR app. A paper copy with directions of how to do this has been sent home this week. These same directions are also attached in PDF form in this Newsletter. Mother Teresa tells us: "Together we can do great things."

As we set out together on our Lenten journey, let us pray a blessing for one another and especially for our sisters and brothers in Queensland and NSW who are dealing with the terrible floods at present, and those in Ukraine who need our prayers.

God Bless.
Gaye Dennis REC



Important Dates:

- Cuppa with the Principal' Parent Forum online or face to face in the Staffroom - Monday 7th March 9 am
- Term 1 Celebration of Learning - Wednesday, 30th March 4:30 pm or 5:00 pm or 5:30 pm
- Parent University - Mathematics - Wednesday, 30th March 6:00pm (face to face)
- Last day of Term 1 - Friday, 8th April

WHS - Site safety

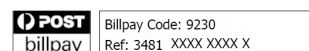
- Thank you for holding your child's hand when crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing and when walking with your child in the car parks on site.

Mother Teresa Primary is going 'cashless' Finance Transformation

CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta) is going through a transformation journey, looking at areas of our organisation to improve the way we work collectively. **Cashless/Contactless Journey**

As Mother Teresa transitions with this transformation, payments in cash at the office will no longer be possible, and prefer that payments over the counter be made by Debit or Credit Card. Card payments are also accepted over the phone.

School fees cash payments may be paid via Post BillPay at the Post Office as long as you have your school fee statement with you. Here you will find your unique details on the bottom corner of Page 1 of the statement.



Pay in person at any Post Office,
by Phone by calling 13 18 16,
or go to postbillpay.com.au



*71 230 3481XXXXXX XX

TOTAL
\$1,000.00

Sport News

It was so lovely to have our first scheduled Cumberland Zone sports carnival take place on Monday 28th February! Our swim team travelled by bus with our loyal Yr 11 Marist boys PASS class who were acting as time keepers on the day.

A huge thank you to our principal Mrs Devlin as well as teachers Miss Elkhoury, Miss Chidaic, Mrs Mardini and parent helper Mr Mardini for acting as officials on the day and making the carnival a success.

All 9 swimmers are to be congratulated for their 'best-efforts' on the day. Lots of bravery off the blocks and super 50m efforts all day. Congratulations to all of our swimmers. We await the final results.

We are also pleased to announce that Cooper S (Yr 6) has been successful in being our first MTP student to make the McKillop Basketball team. He has an exciting journey ahead where he will train with the team to be ready for the NSWPSA Boys Basketball Championships to take place late May this year. We are very proud of Cooper's achievement and are pleased that he has successfully accomplished this goal. The MTP community congratulates you!

Qkr! mobile phone app

Dear Parents and Carers,

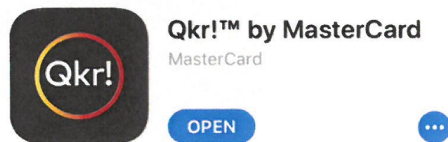
As previously advised, *Mother Teresa Primary* is now offering an online payment service through **Qkr!**. Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') is designed for busy parents and carers, this easy-to-use mobile phone application is suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones. This service is currently available for all **non-school fee** payments.



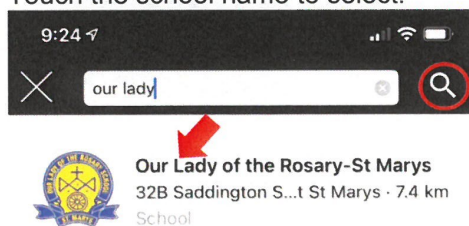
You may now use the app to donate to Caritas Project Compassion.

How to get started with Qkr!:

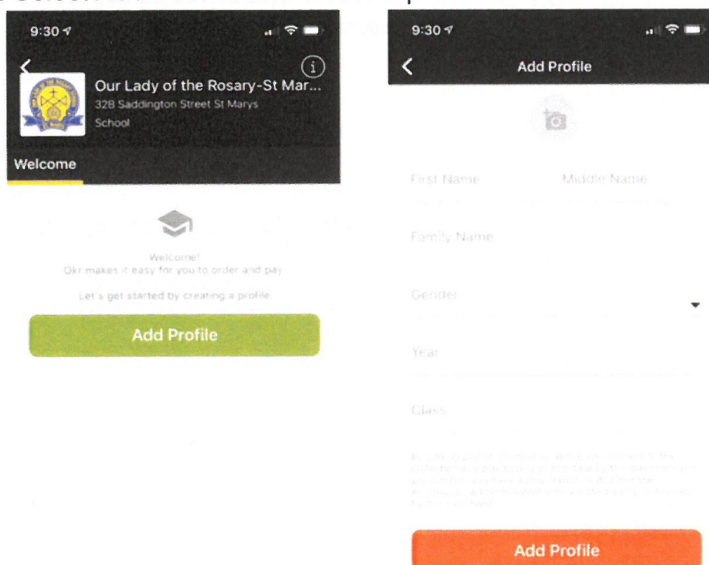
1. Install the **Qkr!** app on your smartphone.



2. Use the magnifying glass to search for *Mother Teresa Primary*. Touch the school name to select.



3. Select **Add Profile** and create a profile for each student at the school.

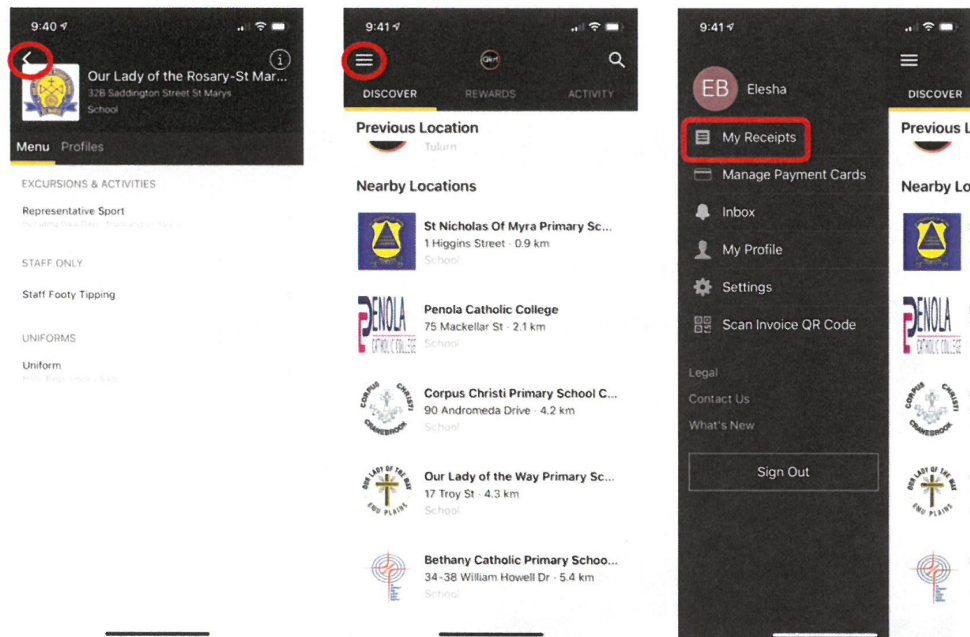


4. Once you have created a profile, you may view available items and purchase them.
5. Please note as purchases are made, a digital receipt will be stored within the app under My Receipts.

To access My Receipts, select < (top left)

Select ≡ (top left)

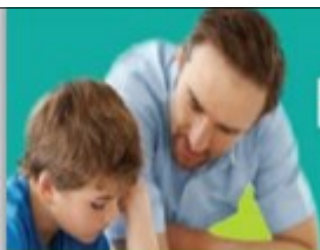
Select **My Receipts**



Donating to Caritas Project Compassion

1. Log in to your Qkr app
2. Select Mother Teresa Primary
3. Scroll all the way down to – Fundraisers (select)
4. Select – Caritas Project Compassion
5. Select or enter amount that you wish to pay
6. Add to cart
7. Check out (you will be asked for your password)

Please do not hesitate to call the School Office if you need further assistance.



Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Student Wellbeing – A Partnership Approach



How are you
supporting your child's
mental health?



How should we respond when our children seem anxious, sad, worried?

Many Parents have concerns about how to give their
child the best support for their mental health?

Learn what our Catholic schools are doing to support our children's flourishing.

How can you partner with them? Hear from our new Director of Wellbeing



Our guest speaker for the evening is:

Dr Greg Elliott

Director Wellbeing - Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)



Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au




Monday, 14th March 2022

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)

(PRC AGM- will be held prior to guest speaker)

Patrician Brothers College, 100 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148

Light supper and refreshments will be provided, and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

www.prc.catholic.edu.au  @preparra



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