



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5-15 Windrock Ave Mt Ridley PO Box 433 Craigieburn VIC 3064

Phone: 7303 1200

Email: principal@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

Friday January 7th 2025

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2025 school year! Firstly I would like to thank each of you as parents for the contribution you have made to ensure that the start of the school year is as smooth as possible. It has been wonderful to see our students so ready to begin the school year. Just a reminder that our external gates are now opened at 8.20am with a staff member on yard duty and the gate being open until 8.50. Learning Spaces will then be opened at 8.30am for the students to enter and begin getting organised for the day. Our external gates will then be re-opened at 3.20pm for you to enter the school grounds to collect your child from outside their learning space at 3.30pm. External gates will be locked at 3.40pm, if you know that you are running a little late for pick up I please ask that you ring the school office on 7303 1200 so that we are aware and can supervise your child in the office.

Meet the Principal ‘Cuppa Chat’ - CANCELLED

Unfortunately, I am currently writing this newsletter from home as I have tested positive to COVID late last night. I will reschedule the *Meet the Principal* session that was to be held next Monday 10th of February for another date.

This is a good reminder for us all as that COVID is certainly around and present in our learning community as I am not the only member of our community to test positive over the last few days.

Acting Deputy Principal Appointment

I am pleased to share that Mrs Conchita Thomas (Mathematics Leader) has been appointed in the role of Acting Deputy Principal for Terms 1 & 2. Conchita will support me in the role of administration of the school and be the principal delegate when I am off site at Principal Networks and the like. You may have seen Conchita as well as Naomi, our new Literacy Leader on yard duty at the back school each morning and afternoon.

XUNO Platform

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the patience you have had this week while the Xuno platform has been down. Yesterday, I had a very frank conversation with our school's manager and expressed my frustration and disappointment that the platform was out for so long, as it is the start of the year and we have some of our students on school camp. He is aware of my position and has assured us this will not occur again. This morning I was informed by our office staff and staff on yard duty that some families are still having trouble logging into the portal. I have once again asked the office staff to again reach out to

XUNO and find out what may be causing these issues as we were told it had been resolved. XUNO is a platform that is designed to make life easier for both parents and school staff, something which I am hopeful that XUNO will deliver to our community.

School Advisory Council

With the commencement of a new year, we are looking for another couple of parents to join the Mother Teresa School Advisory Council. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) states that

“School Advisory Councils are an essential component of governing and operating Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They provide a forum for consultation and participation for parish and school communities. The councils are advisory and call on that part of our wider Catholic tradition that sees advice given in the framework of mutual respect, right relationship and hope: a foundation of our trinitarian faith.”

The School Advisory Council (SAC) meets approximately once a school term usually in the evenings. If you are interested in joining the SAC or would like to find out a little more information about the purpose of the group, then please email me at principal@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au expressing your interest.

Parent Helper Course

Parent helpers are such an asset to the life of a school as they support us to take students on excursions, providing 1:1 reading support and help with other tasks around the school such as covering library books etc I will be holding Parent Helper workshops on **Wednesday 12th of February at 9.00am** after morning prayer as well as on **Tuesday 18th of February at 3.00pm** in the prayer space.

In this session we will be talking about the requirements for parents such as completing a Working with Children Check (WCC) and signing the MACS Code of conduct. If you would like to attend please email info@motherteresa.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au to register your attendance.

Parents and Friends committee

Our Parents and Friends committee are looking for some more parents to join them in 2025! We are so lucky at Mother Teresa to have an active P&F group who sell Zooper Doopers to our students on Friday afternoons and organise events to raise money for our school. Meetings will occur on the last Friday of each month at 2.30pm. Our first meeting will be on 28th of February. If you would like to join the group or find out more information about our P&F group, please email info@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

Grade 5&6 Camp to Sovereign Hill

What a wonderful experience our Grade 5&6 students had at Sovereign Hill earlier this week. They had the opportunity to enjoy life on the Goldfields in the 1850's by participating in a school day and costume experience as well as panning for gold and watching many demonstrations such as candle making! I was fortunate enough to join them for dinner on Monday evening where I was informed by the Sovereign Hill staff that our students' behaviour and participation was exemplary.

I need to thank the following staff who gave up their time and time away from their family and loved ones to attend the 3 day camp. My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to Michelle Follacchio, Mel Brooks,

Sophie MacKinnon Carley Zorzi, Heath Leighton, Bernie Jacovidis, Adam McDonald, Teresa Doria, Marie-Louise Ruberto, Dilisha Sunnadeniya & Margaret Canny. Further on in this newsletter there are some photos of our students enjoying all the camping experiences.

Farewell to Mrs Leahy

As you are all aware right at the end of the year Amy, the previous Deputy Principal announced that she had been appointed to the role of Principal at Sacred Heart, Yea. Amy commenced her principalship at the start of the year, however we will be welcoming her back to Mother Teresa for a farewell on Monday 17th of February. The farewell will be part of our morning prayer service starting at 8.50am with a morning tea for families afterwards concluding at 10.00am where Amy will then visit classrooms and say farewell to our students.

God Bless,

Mrs Jess Davis

Principal

This Week's Happenings

3	Monday 10th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the Principal cuppa chat session at 9.15am • Year 5/6 A Kids Helpline Zoom session - Unlocking Your Inner Leader 10:00-11:00 • Year 5/6 C Kids Helpline Zoom session - Unlocking Your Inner Leader. 9:00-10:00
	Tuesday 11th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5/6 B Kids Helpline Zoom session - Unlocking Your Inner Leader 9:30-10:30 • Year 5/6 D Kids Helpline Zoom session - Unlocking Your Inner Leader. 9:30-10:30 • Staff Meeting 3:45pm - 4:45pm • E-safety webinar for year 3/4s 9:30 - 10:15am (Location: The Bridging Centre)
	Wednesday 12th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Helper Training 9.15am (Legal & Classroom Support)- Cancelled • Staff Meeting 3:45pm - 4:45pm
	Thursday 13th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Helper Training 9.00am (Legal & Classroom Support)
	Friday 14th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess - Principal Network

Child/ Parent / Teacher chats 2025

Child/ parent/ teacher chats are a great opportunity to share important insights about your child, helping their teacher understand them better and provide the most appropriate support. These conversations allow you to discuss their strengths, any challenges they may have, hobbies, and special talents, allowing the teacher to connect with them and incorporate their interests into learning. If your child has any concerns, such as anxiety about schoolwork or friendships, this is a chance to raise them so the teacher can offer guidance. Sharing their attitude toward school — whether they are confident or need encouragement — helps build a strong home-school partnership, ensuring they feel understood, supported and motivated to do their best.

This year, the child parent/ teacher chats will take place on **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February**. The chats will be of 10 minutes duration and occur within the following times:

Tuesday 18th February

3.50 pm - 6.00 pm Child/ Parent/ Teacher Chats

6.00 pm - 6.30 pm Staff dinner - no bookings at this time

6.30 pm - 7.30 pm Child/ Parent/ Teacher Chats

Wednesday 19th February

3.50 - 5.30 Child/ Parent/ Teacher Chats

Early next week, you will receive a letter outlining how to book a time and if required, how to book a translator.



Conchita Thomas



Acting Deputy Principal and
Mathematics Leader



I am truly grateful for the warm welcome I've received from the staff, students, and community. I look forward to working together, building positive relationships, and contributing to the success of Mother Teresa. I'm eager to get to know everyone and to support the growth and development of our students in this new role.

With over 30 years of teaching experience in Victoria, Tasmania, and Spain, and nearly 30 years in leadership roles, I have dedicated my career to education. Outside of work, I cherish time with my beautiful family, enjoy walks and drives around Victoria, and have a deep love for music. I always like new adventures and once, a flight in an aerobatic plane inspired me to learn to fly a small plane. Living on the west coast of Tasmania for three years strengthened my appreciation for the Australian bush and mountains, as well as beautiful natural settings. I also lived and worked in Spain for 18 months and often enjoyed walking in the Spanish/French Pyrenees and savouring Spanish food, especially the tapas food. I love learning new things, seeing new places and meeting new people. If you see me out on the yard, please come up and say hello.

Contact Details

E-mail: conchita.thomas@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au



Naomi Martret



Literacy Leader



I'm so thrilled to join the Mother Teresa community as your Literacy Leader! Everyone has been so welcoming, I already feel like part of the team. I am excited to contribute to our shared mission of empowering students through literacy. I look forward to working with all of you to guide our learners, and I'm eager to build strong relationships as we work with one another in creating a nurturing and enriching environment for our students. Here's to a wonderful journey ahead!

About me

I have dedicated over 26 years to Catholic Education, with 12 of those as a leader. My greatest joy comes from working with children and helping them thrive. As an avid reader, I can easily lose myself in a good book for hours. I also have a deep love for travelling the world and meeting new people, embracing the richness of different cultures. One of my most cherished memories is visiting my family's home in Malta—a place filled with history, beauty, and a deep connection to my heritage. Being outdoors and surrounded by nature is where I feel most at peace, which makes the beautiful surroundings of Mother Teresa feel like home. Above all, I love a good chat and I love to laugh! So if you see me around the school, don't hesitate to come and say hello!

Contact Details

E-mail: naomi.martret@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

Work Days: Tuesday-Friday



Have you seen our new Library? What a wonderful space our students now have to develop a love of reading in. You will notice over the next few weeks more books will be added to our library collection including bilingual books.



Mrs Marta will be taking Library lessons with our Foundation to Grade 2 students. Here are some of our students enjoying some brand new books.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Our students will be required to wear their PE uniforms on the following days:

Year F-2 Tuesday

Year LS C Wednesday

Year 3/4 Monday & Thursday

Year 5/6 Wednesday & Friday





Grade 5&6 Camp to Sovereign Hill



Community News

Kolbe Catholic College will be holding its 2025 Discovery Day for your Grade 5 students on Wednesday 30 April 2025. I am emailing you now so you can add this day to your school calendar for next year.

This event aims to provide Grade 5 students with the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Kolbe Catholic College student. The Grade 5 students will shadow current students and members of College staff, participating in sessions from a wide range of areas including the Performing Arts, Technology, Manual Arts, Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education, Science, Languages, Pastoral Care and much more.

We will provide transport for all students participating in Discovery Day. On the day of the event students will be collected from their current school at 9.00am and travel by bus to Kolbe. At the conclusion of the event students will return via bus to their school at 2.30pm. Members of the College will always supervise students.



VACCA
Connected by culture

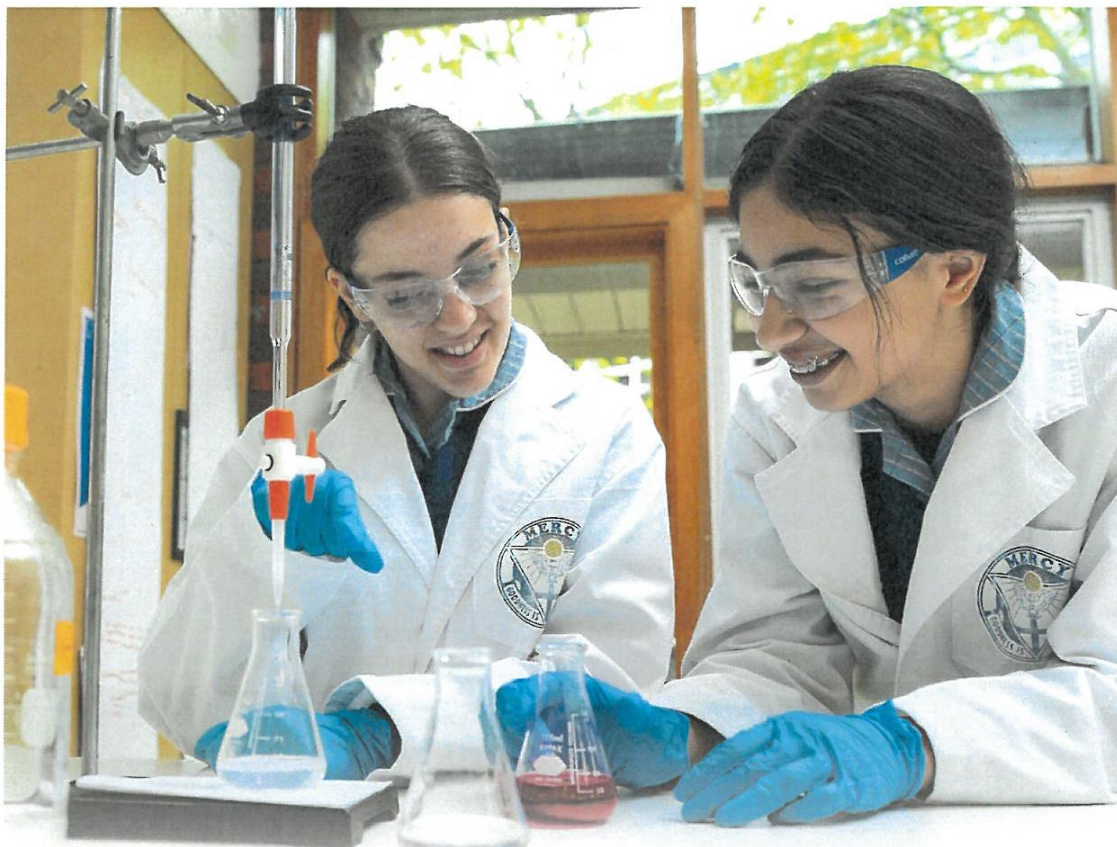
START YOUR FOSTER CARE JOURNEY TODAY

Have you been thinking about becoming a Foster Carer?
Are you able to provide Aboriginal children with a positive and nurturing family life?
Are you excited to support a child's cultural and emotional needs?

VACCA is seeking carers who are open to a journey that is both challenging and rewarding.
If you've ever considered becoming a foster carer, now is the time to start your foster care journey.



Visit our website to find out more: www.vacca.org



DISCOVER MERCY OPEN DAY

Meet our Principal and engage with current students and staff, gaining first hand insight into our educational offerings and extra-curricular activities.

Thursday 13 February 9.30am and 6.00pm
Sunday 16 February 10.00am

760 Sydney Road, Coburg - Entry via Gate 1
Presentation and tour takes approximately 90 minutes.

Book online or call 9319 9299.
mercocoburg.catholic.edu.au

CRICOS 02227J


Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



CONDITIONS OF USE BY SCHOOL GROUPS 2025 - PAUL SADLER SWIMLAND MICKLEHAM -

Availability

Monday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Wednesday	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Friday	9:00am – 3:00pm

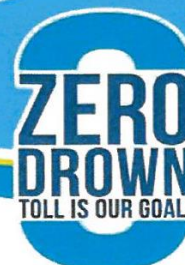
Facilities

- 6 lane 25m pool
- Male, female and family change rooms with showers
- Pool temperature - 32°C
- Pool air temperature - 28°C

School Program Pricing for Terms 1 - 4

Class Size (per teacher)	Session times	Session price (per student/ per class)
10 students	30 minutes	\$11.60
	45 minutes	\$12.50
8 students	30 minutes	\$14.50
	45 minutes	\$15.50
6 students	30 minutes	\$17.50
	45 minutes	\$18.50

* Maximum of 60 students per session. Non-refundable deposit of 10% of final invoice required for confirmation of booking. Additional \$60 per hour required for supervisor cost should pool supervision be required.



*Learn to swim,
it's a skill for life!*

paulsadlerswimland.com

**PAUL SADLER
SWIMLAND**
THE SURVIVAL SPECIALISTS • SINCE 1972

PAUL SADLER SWIMLAND

THE SURVIVAL SPECIALISTS • SINCE 1972



Student Swimming Ability

Collection of Student Swimming Ability information will be collected through our secure online Parent Survey via a specific link or QR code provided by Paul Sadler Swimland Mickleham to the School prior to the School Swimming Program commencing. A paper copy option can also be provided.

Progress Reports

We will keep records of every student's swimming achievements and abilities. Students will be presented with a progress report outlining their swimming ability according to the Paul Sadler Swimland Program at their last session, as well as a certificate of congratulation.

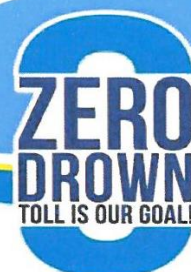
Last Session

On their last day of swimming, all students will take part in a water safety session. In this session the children will be taught various rescues and water safety options for in and around the pool, and other aquatic environments. This is then followed by fun games.

Teachers accompanying children to and from the pool must:

- Supervise the children upon arrival inside the centre and around the pool.
- Ensure children are prepared for swimming. Ideally swimwear already on underneath their school uniform.
- Have the children store their belongings as directed by Swim School Staff.
- After the session, help children collect their belongings and guide them to the change rooms.
- Supervise children in the change rooms during the changing process appropriately.

Ensure there is **no video or photography** within the centre by teachers or visiting parents without prior written consent from both the visiting school and Paul Sadler Swimland.



*Learn to swim,
it's a skill for life!*

paulsadlerswimland.com

PAUL SADLER SWIMLAND

THE SURVIVAL SPECIALISTS • SINCE 1972