Let your Mercy be on us
As we place our trust in you

Welcome to our first school newsletter for a while!

A big thank you to everyone in the MOGs community for supporting our Father’s Day Stall this week. We hope all of our dads receive a great surprise on Sunday morning. A special thanks to the PST for all their support with setting up and running the stall. All the hard work you do for us is much appreciated.

This week is also Refugee and Migrant Week in the Catholic Church. As a Catholic school in the Brigidine tradition, we at MOGs are continually inspired in our challenge to welcome all into our school community. I am forever grateful to be part of a community where children (and families) live in harmony with each other regardless of life story, cultural or religious background.

Last Sunday, we heard the Gospel of the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, which focussed on the need for humility. Jesus tells us not to get above ourselves but to look to the needs of others especially those who have no voice in society – this is especially true sometimes of our refugee brothers and sisters.

’When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ - Luke 14:1,7-14

A wonderful discussion you might have as families might be to consider who the ‘poor, crippled, lame and blind’ are in our modern world, and who, in particular, might we be able to help feel included?

Many thanks for a great first week whilst filling Gerard’s very large shoes.

Have a lovely weekend,

Matthew
GERARD UPDATE
From all reports, it sounds like Gerard is having a wonderful time in Leuven, Belgium, where he has commenced his course. Here is an extract from an email he sent to me this week:

“Hope things are going well. 6am here and been awake for the last hour. Haven’t slept well the last two nights. Age, and jet lag = bad combination, it was close to 30 hours from arriving at Tullamarine to arriving at Brussels on Saturday. 32 degrees when we got here and my room has no AC. Leuven is a very beautiful city and I know I am going to enjoy getting to know it over the next few weeks. Amazing three days here - yesterday an amazing lecture from Didier on the Holocaust, forgiving the unforgivable. Confronting on so many levels. So looking forward to the next weeks.”

FAMILY MATHS NIGHT
Super fun experience for the whole family!

We warmly invite you to attend our Family Maths night on Wednesday 14th September from 5:30 - 8:00pm. We will commence with a whole school SHARED MEAL so please bring along some food to share.

The teaching and learning of mathematics has been a priority area for us at Mother of God over the past two years. Come along to a night of fun and learning where you will discover some of the ways we learn maths and how you can support your child at home.

At Mother of God we know that when families and school work together, children’s learning improves. Learning maths can be fun and enjoyable and this helps build a positive attitude to maths. This is a night for children and families to learn together. Please ensure that all students are accompanied by an adult.

Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter and complete the return slip to school ASAP.

ROALD DAHL 100TH BIRTHDAY
On the last day of Term 3 (Friday 16 September), we will be celebrating the famous author, Roald Dahl’s 100th birthday. As part of the celebrations on this day, children are invited / encouraged to dress up as their favourite Roald Dahl character. We will be having a whole school parade on the day at 9:15am as well as many other activities related to this wonderfully talented man. All families are welcomed and encouraged to come along and join in the festivities. Perhaps we can have a special prize for the best ‘Parent Costume’!
Last Friday, many of our MLC and SLC superstars competed in the Sunshine District Athletics Carnival at Newport Athletics Track. I was highly impressed by the behaviour and sportsmanship of all boys and girls throughout the day. Equally impressive, were some of the individual and team performances which have led to 13 of our children qualifying for the Keilor Division Championships to be held this coming Tuesday 6 September at Keilor Athletics Track – Stadium Drive, Keilor Park. Details are as follows:

9:30am - Christian Olivieri (9/10 year old boys 800m final), Bol Atem (12/13 year old boys 800m final), Alexis Wheelahan (11 year old girls Discus final)

11:00am – Riak John, Christian Olivieri, Stephan Pratis and Nyok Yuat (g/10 year old boys 4x100m relay final), Deng Thiep, Nathan Goncalves, Simon Barbara and Bol Atem (12/13 year old boys 4x100m relay final)

12:00pm – Nyok Yuat (9/10 year old boys 200m final), Ngor Dao (11 year old boys 200m final), Bol Atem (12/13 year old boys 200m final)

12:45pm – Nyok Yuat (9/10 year old boys 100m final)

1:30pm – Isabela Ramirez (11 year old girls 1500m final), Shalom Gizaw (12/13 year old girls 1500m final)

A special mention to Tayla Olivieri who also qualified for the 9/10 year old girls 1500m final. Unfortunately, we were informed this week that Tayla is ineligible to compete as she is too young! Mmmmmmm..........
DRUMBEAT
Throughout this Term, all of our children have been learning African Drumming as part of Performing Arts. It would be fair to say, that they are all enjoying this immensely and are beginning to show quite a deal of talent! At the final assembly for the term (12:15pm on the last day), we will hold some special performances from each grade so please try to come along to see your child/ren perform.

OPENING SCHOOL GATES ON MAXWELD STREET
As you know, we now open the school gates on Maxwell St in the mornings and afternoons. This is due to the increased traffic on Blanche St in the mornings and afternoons – one of the many nice problems associated with our school growing in numbers! We will continue to dismiss all children from the front of the school on Blanche St, however, if you have parked in Maxwell St you are able to walk through the school grounds.

ARDEER OLYMPICS
With thanks to the Ardoch Foundation, ALL Mother of God and Ardeer Primary School children will be participating in a special Ardeer Olympics on Thursday 15th September throughout the day. Children are to wear FULL SPORT UNIFORM on this day. As part of the day, we are wanting to celebrate with a special multicultural lunch – could I ask that, if you can, could you please bring along a special dish from your culture for the children from both schools to share for lunch. This would be greatly appreciated by all children (as well as a certain Acting Principal!!!)
**KIDS TEACHING KIDS**

Kids Teaching Kids Week is a free, national, inquiry based, peer teaching program that uses the environment as a theme and focus for learning. Students of all ages find solutions to complex environmental problems such as climate change, water, waste, conservation, energy, drought, population and pollution. Students research, develop and then perform songs, comedy, dance routines, poems, plays, games and experiments for their peers to deliver their messages about the environment. This coming **Thursday 8th September**, 10 of our beautiful MLC children will be representing Mother of God at St Albans Secondary College where they will teach children from many other schools across Melbourne about these very important topics. Good luck to **Deacon Afoa, Alyssa Wade, Olivia Wheelahan, Ella Niupalau, Jullia Vargas, Justin Doan, Stephan Pratis, Andrew Barbara, Michael Kounadis** and **Chiara Mbog-Nyetam** – I know you will do us all very proud!

**INSIGHT SRC SURVEYS**

This week you would have all received an important survey in your eldest child’s bag. These Insight SRC surveys are sent annually to the parents of all Catholic school children in Melbourne. Your responses form an important part of setting directions for our beautiful school over the coming years. Please take the time to complete them (either online or handwritten). These surveys need to be completed by the last day of term 3.

**MOGS STUDENT PORTAL**

The MOGS Student Portal is an online resource to let you know of the learning and curriculum focus in each of the three areas of our school: Junior Learning Community (Prep – Yr 1), Middle Learning Community (Yrs 2-4) and Senior Learning Community (Yrs 5 & 6). You can access the portal from the front page of the school website **www.mogardeer.catholic.edu.au** Simply click on ‘Intranet’ at the bottom of the screen then click on the link to MOGs Student Portal.
MOGs FAMILY MATHS NIGHT

Super Fun!
Super fun experience for the whole family!

You are cordially invited to attend a Family Maths night on Wednesday 14th September from 5:30 -8:00 p.m.

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At Mother of God we know that when families and school work together children’s learning improves. Learning maths can be fun and enjoyable and this helps build a positive attitude to maths. This is a night for children and families to learn together. Please ensure that all students are accompanied by an adult.

If you are able to attend the Family Maths Night please fill in the attached form and return it to school as soon as possible.

5:30 - Begin the night with a shared meal. (each family, to bring a plate of food to share)
6:30 - Michelle to talk about the maths program in our school
Matthew – family quiz – invite families to take one of the home maths boxes to continue the fun.
7:00 – 7:50 Families choose three areas to visit and explore maths with their children.
7:50 - 8:00 - Families gather together to share their experience of the night. Maths gift bags and prizes to be handed out to families. MoGs cup of Learning awarded!

We will be attending the Family Maths Night on **Wednesday 14th of September** at Mother of God School.
**Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm**

Name of Family  ________________________________

Family Members Attending  ________________________________

Child minding (pre – school children) will be required    Yes    No  (Please circle)

An interpreter will be required
Yes    No  language:________________________