Dear Parents

I hope your children have enjoyed their first days of the 2016 school year, all of them seemed quite tired by the time Friday afternoon came around!

Our swimming carnival was yet another example of our community spirit with wonderful participation from all students. Thank you to Mrs Petersen and Mrs Pettett for their organisation and the many parents who helped on the day.

Parent interviews: As indicated in Term 4 2015, this year we are changing the structure of our parent interviews and we will be offering parents the opportunity to meet with teachers in Terms 1 and 3. These meetings will be held in the latter part of the term, and will be an opportunity for teachers to gain a greater understanding of the child with parent’s input and for parents and teachers to discuss learning goals for the student. More information about the structure of these meetings will be provided in future communication.

Written reports will still be sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Aside from these opportunities to meet with teachers, I would encourage you to please keep your child’s teacher/s up to date with any changes to their personal circumstances (no matter how trivial you may consider them) it may have an impact on them at school) and to contact teachers should you have any issues or concerns.

Parent Information Nights:
Kindergarten parents are invited to attend the information evening on Monday 8 February from 5pm. See further information about the evening later in this bulletin.

Aside from this, grades 1-6 will send home information to parents outlining any routines pertaining to that grade and school structures that occur at St Therese’s. Teachers in grades 1-2 will offer parents the opportunity to learn more about their Maths and Literacy programs in the coming weeks as well.

Absences: Parents/carers must provide a note explaining their child’s absence within 7 school days of their absence. A note received after this time will not be accepted and the leave recorded as unexplained. A message regarding absence can also be taken via phone call, email or via Skoolbag APP. Any leave of 10 or more days must have prior written approval from the Principal.

Social Media: Please be mindful of the privacy of others when photographing your child at school events. Parents may only photograph their own child and are not permitted to photograph other students.

Please check images of school activities that you intend to upload to your social media site, or class group sites, to ensure that no other child from St Therese’s is visible in the photo.

New Syllabus: This year all grades will begin the teaching of Geography. This is the latest syllabus that was released by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) NSW in the middle of 2015. The Key Learning Area of Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) remains and it is now split into 2 areas (History and Geography). We began the teaching of History at St Therese’s in 2014.

In Term 4 last year staff spent several meetings with their 2016 colleagues working on their curriculum maps to accommodate, adjust and integrate this new syllabus into grade programs.

Staff Professional Development
Focus 2016: We are re-focussing and revising our strategies in the teaching of spelling, an area of need identified by staff.
We will begin with Professional Development for staff in grades 3-6, in weeks 4-5 of Term 1, on explicit and strategic teaching of spelling. I thank Therese Jackman (5J teacher) for sharing her skills with staff in this area.

Teachers in K-2 will work with Sarah Barnes (Learning Support Teacher) in coming weeks to enhance their teaching of reading and spelling with MSL (Multi-Sensory Structured Language Learning). As the name suggests, this program utilises all of the senses in tapping into how each individual student learns best. Sarah was trained in MSL last year and she has been trialling it with great success with Learning Support groups over the last semester. This professional development for staff will further expand the strategies for all learners in our classrooms. Thank you Sarah for your work with this.

As I discussed in last week's bulletin, Catherine Attard from the University of Western Sydney will work with staff on the teaching and assessment in Mathematics as part of our continued focus on flexible groupings in this area that we use as the basis of our Professional Learning Communities. Catherine's first day with the staff is a PUPIL FREE day—Monday 29 February—no school for students on this day.

As with most other professions, teachers are now part of the Australian Teaching Standards and teachers will be required to participate in Professional Goal Setting, Development and Reflection of their practice as required by this governing body. Throughout 2015, we trialled some strategies of observations and goal setting and will continue this in our staff meetings this year.

Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome to join us (and the school band) at our weekly Tuesday morning assembly from 9:15.
P & F meeting tonight at 7pm in the staffroom. All are welcome.

The Diocesan Federation of Parents & Friends will hold their annual Special Needs Information days for parents. If you have a child with special needs at our school/s you may wish to attend: 2 sessions on 15 March (St James Hall, Kotara 3th) 11-1pm and repeated 7-8:30pm.
Enjoy your week,
Sallyanne Stanbridge Acting Principal

Double Parking
Parents please be aware that double parking and asking children to run across to you is not only illegal but, dangerous for your children. We are all in a hurry and I know that saving 30 secs of time is extremely important but, really does it equal your child’s safety?
Parents be mindful of our neighbours. Don’t park in their driveways and if you are asked to move please do so respectfully.

RE News
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 10th February. We invite parents to join our Primary classes for the Parish 9.30 Mass in St Therese’s church. Infants students will have special liturgies in their classrooms.

Celebration to begin the new school year. We will gather on Friday February 12th at 9.30 in the Hall to celebrate our new school year. During this liturgy we will pray for God's blessing on our year and will introduce our school leaders and present them with their badges. Parents are warmly invited to join us for this special time.

Sacramental
Dates for Registration of children to enrol for preparation to celebrate the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation will occur soon. Please check the Parish Sunday Bulletin and website for more information.

Vickie Pettett—RE Coordinator

Family Discount Information
A reminder that if you have not yet handed in your family discount form, it is required by the office no later than Wednesday 3rd February so you can be correctly billed (Thank you to those families who have already done this). A copy is included in this weeks newsletter. Family discount will only be applied upon receipt of this form. Also holders of health care cards must bring them into the office at the commencement of each school year.

Kindergarten Parent Information Night
Kindergarten parents are invited to join us in the main hall at 5pm on Monday 8th February to "Meet and Greet" the Kindergarten teachers and other parents. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Following this, at 5.30pm, the Kindergarten teachers will provide a brief outline of the Kindergarten curriculum and answer any about day to day routines. We look forward to seeing you there.
Many thanks,
The Kindergarten Teachers

Swimming Carnival
Yesterday St. Therese’s held their annual swimming carnival at the forum. It was a great success due to the help of a number of people. Thank you to the students who participated all day and showed great support to their fellow school mates. To Jon Nightingale in particular for months of work on the program and for being the starter. To all the parents who volunteered... the timekeepers, judges, book keepers and chief starter. To the P&F who organised lunch and water for our helpers, it was greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you teachers who attended the carnival and the parents and friends who came to support the children. Without all these people carnivals could not be run. The school is very grateful. I did find a red camping chair left at the forum, if you have lost yours it is in the office.

Congratulations to our house captains who organised their house colours brilliantly and kept the chants going. The results from yesterday will be in next weeks newsletter.
Winning house: Green
Paperwork for those children attending the Central Regional carnival will follow, the carnival will be held at Lambton Park on the 17th Feb 2016

OOSH
Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome back! I hope that you have enjoyed the holiday period. The staff and children of the YMCA have thoroughly enjoyed some fantastic activities and had a lot of fun over the Christmas holidays. We have seen the number of children attending our Vacation Care program steadily increase over the last six months, which is fabulous to see. We are now seeing upwards of 30 children attend each day, with our bigger days reaching 50 to 60. These numbers are a reflection of the efforts of our team working hard to engage children in a range of fun games and activities. It also indicates that our children are enjoying our program and are happy to come along.
The YMCA has a team that works very hard throughout the term, compiling ideas and resources for our program so that we can continue to provide a quality, fun and inclusive program for your children. Any feedback and ideas are most welcome, as these will assist us as we strive to create the best possible program for our families.

As we move into the school term, I would like to advise of some changes to our structure. As you are aware, Courtney and myself have been running the centre as dual coordinators to accommodate increasing numbers. Unfortunately, Courtney has made the decision not to return to the service this year and has resigned from her position as Co-Coordinator. At this stage we will not be looking to put on a second Coordinator. I will continue in my role as Coordinator and, with the help of a fantastic team will continue to nurture a supportive, fun, inclusive, caring and safe environment for your children. Michelle, Steph and Jenny will continue in their roles as permanent part time educators.

Due to the hard work of our management team, we now also have an excellent team of qualified casual staff who work regularly at the centre. This allows our staff to get to know each of our children well and better accommodate their needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I am extremely happy with the way in which the centre is progressing and will, along with my team, continue to implement new ideas in an effort to further improve our facility and program. Once again, I welcome all feedback. All concerns will be heard and addressed.

I am looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best care possible for your children throughout 2016.

Many thanks and kind regards,
Kylie Nadalin - Coordinator

Canteen
A 2016 menu and price list will be distributed. A few changes but perhaps the one to note is that we now only have one sized slushie at $1.50. Thanks to everyone who has offered to volunteer in the canteen this year. We really appreciate it.

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Playgroup – Friday 12th February 2016
Playgroup will commence next Friday. Come along and join us for our regular playgroup session next week in the hall from 9:15am - 11:15am.
Cost is only $3 per family which includes morning tea for parents.
Please pack a snack and drink for your children.
We look forward to seeing you all.
Contact Nicole if you have any questions about playgroup on 0419 209912.

Bookclub
Issue 1 brochures from Scholastic Australia are now available.
If you wish to make a purchase, simply fill out the order form – place it in an envelope with the CORRECT money, credit card details or cheque made out to Scholastic Australia. If paying by credit, receipts need to be fully filled out including receipt number and name.
Please write your child's name and class on the front of the envelope as well as the order form.
Closing date for orders is next week Wednesday 10th February
Library pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as birthdays, Christmas, rewards etc. Clearly mark the order 'Library pick-up' and add a contact number.
REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.

Piano Lessons
Piano/Guitar Lessons for new students 1st lesson is free.
Phone Ben 0477 929 758

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.

Canteen Roster

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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>Lisa Daly</td>
<td>Michelle Cowling</td>
<td>Anna Burns</td>
<td>Leah McHugh</td>
<td>Rachelle McKenzie</td>
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<td>Amy Gibson</td>
<td>Samantha Roxby</td>
<td>Rhonda Kohlenberg</td>
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<td>Jacqui Osbourne</td>
<td>Marina Sheppard</td>
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<td>Gillian Malcolm</td>
<td>Sheree Rowney</td>
<td>Nicole McNabb</td>
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<td>Laura Street</td>
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Family Discount Information 2016

Please complete this form and return to your school, even if you only have one child enrolled in the Maitland –Newcastle Diocese. Family Discount will only be applied upon return of this form.

Completed and returned to St Therese’s Date 3/2/16

Name of Fee payer for students listed below: ____________________________________________________________ (Please print Full Name clearly)

Please list ALL children attending Maitland/Newcastle Diocesan Schools in 2016, which the above person is responsible for the payment of fees. PLEASE NOTE: We request this for processing reasons only, the discount given is based on the number of students in our Diocesan school’s residing at the same address.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name/s</th>
<th>Student’s Residential Address</th>
<th>School Name/s</th>
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If any of the above information changes you MUST notify each school immediately. EG: Any changes to your student’s enrolment being they do not return to school or another child not listed above enrolls at a later date.

Fee Payer’s Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: __________________________

Family Discount Rate  
1 child family 0% - full rate to be applied  
2 child family 10% discount for each child off tuition Fees only  
3 child family 20% discount for each child off tuition Fees only  
4 child family 40% discount for each child off tuition Fees only  
5+ child family 50% discount for each child off tuition Fees only

Office Use Only
No of Students in Family:________________________
Family Code:____________________________________
Needs editing (Y/N):____________________________
To Bill DF&SBL (Y/N):____________________________
Account No: ............................................

HEALTH CARE CARD

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle offer a further reduction off Tuition fees for ‘means tested’ low income Health Care / Pension holders. This rate provides a discount for each child of 50% off the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate. In order to receive this additional discount, you must provide a copy of your Health Care Card to the School at the commencement of each school year.

Any family experiencing financial difficulties is entitled to fee assistance. The principal of the school can be contacted to discuss such situations.