Dear Parents, Staff and Children,
I just wanted to write a few words to express my thanks to you all for your thoughts, prayers and well wishes after my heart attack. You don't realize just how uplifting it is to have people inquire as to how you are going and to give you words of encouragement. Currently I am doing what the doctors have said and am attending Cardio-rehab and trying to reorganize my lifestyle. We really are lucky to be living in this great country where we have such gifted doctors and nurses. I am feeling really well and apart from being a little tired at times I am recovering and getting on top of things. I look forward to returning to school on Monday 29th February, and am excited that I will be seeing you all especially the children.

Love Duilio Rufo

Dear Parents,
I was a very proud Principal (and teacher) last Friday when Anda Luka, Nicholas Raymond and Eamon Deppe were recognised at the Director/Principal’s day at the Catholic Schools Office for topping the diocese in the Year 6 Religious Education test in 2015. Not only is it a chance to congratulate the boys on their outstanding achievement but also our teachers for their dedicated work with these boys in their time with us at St Therese’s. The boys are now in Year 7 at St Pius.

Love Duilio Rufo

Dear Parents,
attended the first of three days of Professional Development in Sydney with Lynette Barker, Leanne Kepreotes and Year 5 staff on Building Capability for creative and critical thinking in our students. Today’s employers, and certainly those of the future, are seeking workers who are problem solvers, critical and creative thinkers. The challenge for educators today is to provide genuine opportunities for their students to develop these dispositions and to create a culture that is hospitable to learning, a culture of asking questions, rather than providing all the answers for students.

We have always based whether a child is ‘smart’ on their acquisition of knowledge and skills and therefore the grade they gained. This is in fact a distorted view of ‘smartness’. Educationalist Ron Ritchhart tells us we need to rethink smart, to judge students more carefully instead on how they apply and exhibit certain behaviours over time such as analysis, critical thinking and problem solving.

Some important changes to ponder,

Sallyanne Stanbridge Acting Principal

Congratulations to the students who received the School Spirit Award for living the value of respect by displaying lovely manners. We will continue with this focus for the next 2 weeks.
Marcus Kerby and Zahra Bennett, 4M BJ Graham and Celise Watkins, 5J Connor Chapman and Imogen Sinclair, SPD Sophia Bechly, 6S Ella Hawes and Carolina Delcour, 6NG Ashlea Molloy and Elsa Tolhurst, 6M Hayden McDonald and Grace James

**Stage 1 Literacy and Numeracy Evening**

Parents who have a child in Years 1 and 2 would have received information regarding an information session on Thursday 18 February in the Father Walsh Hall. We will discuss the teaching of literacy and numeracy, and you will have the opportunity to use some of the concrete materials in these areas. Join us from 5pm to "play" with literacy and numeracy resources and have an informal chat with the teachers. From 5:30pm we will go through teaching strategies.

**Year 1 and 2 Teachers**

**Procr Students**

We welcome 2nd year Master of Teaching students from the University of Newcastle. The students will be here for the next three weeks on the following classes, Rachel Hardman (5J), Geoffrey Smith (6S) and Matthew Vale (6NG).

**K Maretich**

**Acting Assistant Principal**

**RE News**

Last Friday at a special ceremony three of our Year 6 students from St Therese's received acknowledgement of their outstanding results in the Year 6 Religious Literacy Test. The boys, Anda Luka, Eamon Deppe and Nicholas Raymond were presented with a special trophy for placing equal first in the test. Ms Stanbridge was presented with the school award for the success of these students. Proud parents and grandparents were delighted to be able to attend this special celebration. St Pius X High School staff are claiming the three boys, but we know their results are due to excellent teaching from their Year 6 teachers in 2015. Well done boys, you have set the bar high for the current Year 6.

**Lent**

During Lent we are involved in considering the needs of those less fortunate than us through our donations to Project compassion. This week we have looked at the wonderful work being done in Laos for children with learning difficulties and special needs. This work can only be carried on through our generosity to Project compassion. Going without an ice block or packet of chips and putting the money in the class box will make a difference for these children. Parents please collect a box for home from the church.

**Sacramental News**

Thank you to all the families who attended Mass on Sunday so the children could be presented to the Parish as they begin their preparation for reception of the last two Sacraments of Initiation. Parents please remember to send in yellow group forms and bring along registration forms to the meeting on Wednesday night, here at St Therese's Main Hall – 6.30 for a 7.00pm start.

**Family Mass**

Thank you to the children and families who supported the 9.15 Family Mass on Sunday. We had many of our young students there and hope the response for our next Family Mass on 6 March will be even better. Making links between our school and Parish is one of our goals this year and we need everyone’s support to achieve this.

**Vickie Pettett—RE Coordinator**

**2016 ICAS Assessments**

Notes went home with students from Years 3-6 last week with the dates, times and cost of this year’s ICAS assessments to be held between May and August this year. Participation is totally voluntary and is simply a chance for individual students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation, across a variety of subject areas. Forms and payments must be returned to school by Friday 18th of March, as our school submissions are due to ICAS by the next week. Please return your submissions and payments to the office in a clearly marked envelope with name and details on the front.

**Kindergarten Pick Up**

Please note that from this week onwards the Kindergarten students, will be lining up in the afternoon dismissal lines with all the other students. We ask that parents wait outside the gates for their children. Not only is this a safety issue, but it is important to build a good routine and independence for your child. Year 6 will be assisting the kinder students to their lines in the first couple of weeks to help establish this routine. Please do not panic if your child is not immediately visible at the gates, staff will not let any student leave the school without an adult. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Julia Briggs—Primary Coordinator**

**Sport Report**

**Winter Trials**

Students from Stage 3 will be attending winter sport trials this week. Netball and Soccer (school selection only) are on today the 16th February. Thank you to Jason Duffield and Simon Field who selected the Rugby League participants last Friday. Ben Wellard, Jack Duffield, Darby Hepple, Lawson Dooley and Brodie Young will be trying out in the 11’s age group. Max Quinn, Lachlan Drinan, Hayden Woolven, Kieren Stanley and Thomas Levey will be trying out for the Open’s division.
Joshua Porter-Kay and Dimitra Anastasi will be going through to the Diocesan trial for Hockey in the coming weeks. This Friday Soccer, Netball and Rugby League Regional Trials will be held.

**Softball**
Emilie Coe in 6NG travelled to Lismore on the 5th February to try out for the Polding Softball team. She had great success and impressed the selectors with her skills. Emilie will compete as part of the Polding team later this year in June. Congratulations on your selection Emilie!!

**Basketball**
Congratulations to Max Quinn in 6M who was successful at the try outs for the Polding Basketball team earlier this year. Max will be a valuable player for Polding and will compete at Terrigal in May. Well done Max!!

**Tennis**
Congratulations to Brigitte Davis and Nicholas Moylan both in 6M who attended the Polding Tennis trials held in Lismore last Wednesday.

**Road Safety**
With the busyness of life sometimes we forget to stop and think about our actions. This can result in accidents happening. At St Therese’s we have a working Road Safety Policy to ensure our students, staff and families are safe around school roads. Please read the following expectations:

- modelling safe road user behaviour
- parking vehicles safely outside the school and observing all parking signs
- ensuring that children are protected whilst travelling to and from school
- reinforcing the safety messages taught at school
- supervising the travel of young students;
- identifying and reporting safety issues in and around the school and
- contribute to solving road safety issues that are of concern to the school and community.

**Staff Carpark**
Due to the layout of the school the Staff Carpark is also a walkway to try and reduce the amount of traffic in the school grounds. We understand that there is limited parking outside the school, but a friendly reminder that the Staff Carpark is not to be used as a point of drop off/collection for students before or after school.

Thank you

**Deb Petersen – Primary Coordinator**
### Good for Kids good for life

#### BENEFITS OF TEAM SPORTS

Participation in team sports is a great way to increase your child’s physical activity. But did you know there are a number of other benefits to team sports, including:

- Teaching children skills in teamwork
- Increasing communication skills
- Helping children gain confidence through interaction with other kids
- Teaching children it is ok to lose sometimes
- Making new friends
- And most importantly having fun!

There are many different team sports to choose from such as soccer, netball, touch football and hockey. Why not see what team sports are available at your school or in the community for your child to participate in?

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### Canteen Roster

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<td>Louise Boyle</td>
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