Dear Parents,

It makes me an extremely proud Principal and colleague to announce that our Teacher/Librarian Lynette Barker is one of 4 Australian educators chosen by Microsoft to attend a Global Educator Conference in Budapest, Hungary. Three hundred educators from around the world have been selected to attend the 3 day conference beginning on 7 March. We congratulate Lynette on her inclusion in this select group and excitedly await her return to share her learnings with us. Lynette is a driving force behind many innovative and creative learning initiatives at St Therese's and has been for many years. It is wonderful to see her recognised on the world stage and to have the opportunity to work with her contemporaries.

As indicated in an earlier bulletin, we are trialling parent/teacher interviews in Terms 1 and 3 this year. These will be occurring in weeks 8 and 9 this term. You will soon receive notification of dates and times to book in for these. This is an opportunity for you to talk with your child’s teacher to consider how you can work in partnership with us to help your child achieve their best outcomes academically, emotionally and socially. I would encourage you to make a time for an interview.

Aspire 2016

This year’s Diocesan production, “There’s Something Strange about Marvin McRae” will be held at the Civic Theatre August 4-6. Ruby Price from St Therese’s is in the dance ensemble. Students may be interested in entering the song writing competition, with full details in this newsletter.

A reminder that next Monday 29 February is a PUPIL FREE DAY.

Sallyanne Stanbridge Acting Principal

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week begins on Monday 7th March. The theme is “I belong, you belong, we belong”. During this week we celebrate the work of St Therese’s staff and students with our normal school assembly on Tuesday 8th March. This is followed by a cuppa for parents, then open classrooms from 10.45 till 11.30. Parents can then join the infants classes for lunch.

PBS

Congratulations to the students who received the School Spirit Award for displaying RESPECT by using lovely manners.


For the next 2 weeks we will be focussing on displaying RESPECT by being obedient. Being obedient is important as it means students are following the school and class rules; which make St Therese’s a safe and happy place. Classes begin each year by looking at individual rights and responsibilities and those of the groups they belong to. This leads to each class developing their rules which are in line with our 4 core values; respect, care & compassion, integrity and inclusivity. The school also has rules to ensure the safety of everyone. When we are obedient there are many positive consequences, e.g. awards, stickers, praise, dojo points, early marks. When students display disobedience it follows that negative
consequences occur e.g. community service, time off the playground. Learning to be obedient teaches your child how to be effective members of society now and for life.

Pokémon Cards
We have a growing number of children who are bringing in Pokémon cards to play with at playtimes. Of late these cards are being traded and given away one day, but then students change their mind and want the cards back, which is causing issues. As a result Pokémon cards are banned at St Therese's and we ask parents to ensure your child does not bring them to school.

Miss Ireland
This Saturday Miss Ireland and her fiancé Craig Wedesweiler will be married. We wish them both a lifetime of happiness.

Green Day Mission Day
On Friday 18 March the infants classes will host a mission day with all money being raised going to Caritas. More information will be published in the newsletter in the coming weeks, and infant parents will receive an information note by the end of the week.

K Marettich
Acting Assistant Principal

Social Justice Initiatives
At St Therese's we are committed to engaging our students in Social Justice initiatives, which often include a “Mission Day”. On these days we raise funds for a variety of foundations which assist the underprivileged, the poor, the marginalised, etc. This term’s initiative is on Friday March 18 and is our Green Day. Students are asked to wear green and donate a gold coin for this privilege. We invite our parents of infants students to assist us by providing “basically” green goodies for sale. More information closer to the day. All money raised supports Project Compassion, a Catholic organisation which support families in developing countries, but also families in Australia. Currently students are viewing examples of the work of Caritas in the field at the Tuesday morning Liturgy during Assembly. You can view these short examples by logging on to Project Compassion 2016. We thank you, our parents for the support you show to all these projects.

Project Compassion
Recently four students from the Social Justice Team went to the launch of Caritas, Project Compassion. Caritas is a foundation which sponsors people and their communities all around the world. We found the tribute to the Aboriginal people very inspiring, with eucalyptus leaves burning and traditional dancers. Once inside the Cathedral, we heard about the money raised in 2015 and how it helped various communities. Then we heard messages from people in these communities read out by students. In these messages we heard of the help given and the thanks expressed. After the ceremony we were invited to share pancakes as it was Shrove Tuesday. We remembered that Jesus went into the desert for forty days before starting his ministry and that is why Lent is forty days. The whole experience was educational and the pancakes delicious, but more importantly, we, the students from St Therese’s attending, realised how fortunate we are to be brought up here in Australia, but more importantly, we, the students from St Therese's attending, realised how fortunate we are to be brought up here in Australia.

Sacramental News
We are proceeding well with preparation for reception for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. All resources will be available by this Thursday, 25th February and can be either collected from the Coordinators’ Office or can be sent home with your child. Please note that there is no meeting on March 17th as previously stated in the Bulletin. The next meeting for parents re Eucharist is on 4 May. Still some spaces for groups on Tuesday and Wednesday after school and on Sunday after 9.15 Mass- let us know if we can help. Also just a few registration forms are still to arrive - please send in asap.

Julia, Leanne and Vickie

Kids Matter - GRIT
Can you predict whether a child will achieve great academic or life success? When psychologist Angela Duckworth studied people in various challenging situations, including National Spelling Bee participants, rookie teachers in tough neighborhoods, and West Point cadets, she found: “One characteristic emerged as a significant predictor of success. And it wasn’t social intelligence. It wasn’t good looks, physical health, and it wasn’t IQ. It was grit.” Angela Duckworth defines “grit” as “perseverance and passion for long-term goals.” It involves “working strenuously toward challenges, maintaining effort and interest over years despite failures, adversity, and plateaus in progress.” It’s one of a set of “noncognitive” skills -- such as curiosity, resilience, self-control -- that researchers now realize impact students’ long-term success just as much -- or possibly more --than academic skills or IQ. You can see Angela Duckworth’s TED presentation on the following link: http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit
In next week’s Newsletter I will include some tips for you to help improve your child’s grit.

Julia Briggs – Primary Coordinator

Environmental Team 2016
The St Therese’s Environmental Team had its first meeting last week and were excited to have shared ideas thoughts and feelings about the direction our team will take this year. A number of priorities were made and our goals were formulated. Our mission is to ensure that there is a school awareness regarding environmental issues at St Therese’s, that we, as a school community, are doing our best to promote best practice with regard to environmental issues both here at school and in the wider world community. Stay tuned for our upcoming initiatives, the first of which will be School Assembly and Newsletter items on current environmental issues and events.

Mrs Julia Briggs & The Environmental Team

Sport Report

Winter Trials
A number of children attended the Regional Trials for their chosen sport on Friday the 19th February. Rugby League trials were today. Congratulations to the following children;

Netball

Soccer
Alice Meers, Ellen Hughes, Abbey Anderson, Jerick Loachaivaj, Ziggy Fletcher, Sam Brain, Declan Hughes, Kilian McCarthy, Oscar Ward. A big thankyou to Mr Tim Breen who helped with the trials. Congratulations to Alice Meers, Ellen Hughes,
Abbey Anderson, Jerick Loachaivaj and Kilian McCarthy for making it through to the Diocesan Trial.
Soccer Dio. Trial 15th March at Wallarah Oval, Lambton

**Hockey**
Josh Porter-Kay and Dimitra Anastasi will attend the Hockey Dio trial on 15th March at International Hockey Centre.

**Rugby League**
Lawson Dooley, Jack Duffield, Ben Wellard, Brodie Young, Darby Hepple, Max Quinn, Lachlan Drinan, Hayden Woolven, Kieren Stanley, Thomas Levey
Rugby League - Dio Trial 15th March – Hudson Park

**Swimming**
Last Wednesday 50 children represented St. Therese’s at the Regional Carnival in Lambton. It was an exciting and competitive day. 23 children from our school will now compete on the 1st March at the Diocesan Carnival. Thank you to the parents who came on the day to support the children and to Mr Smith and Mr Vale for being our official time keepers. I will meet those children attending the Dio. Carnival at 8:45 at the Lambton pool.


**NRL Wellbeing talk**
Today spokes people from the NRL came to speak to the students about health and wellbeing, they covered the topics of the importance of sleep, hydration and belonging.

Thank you
**Deb Petersen – Primary Coordinator**

**Canteen News**
Sushi rolls are back each and every Tuesday. Made locally by Sushi For You in New Lambton. Due to overwhelming demand, orders must be placed via Flexischools. https://www.flexischools.com.au

**Pizza Combo Day**
Friday 4th March Year 6 are holding a pizza combo day. $5 buys you a freshly baked individual pizza, a juice and a chocolate. Choose from Hawaiian or Meatlovers (gluten free also available). Orders must be placed via Flexischools. https://www.flexischools.com.au
Orders close Wednesday 2 March 3pm. Please note the canteen will be closed for all other lunch orders on this day but will be open to serve ice blocks.

**OSHC**
Children and staff had another fantastic week at OSHC. Children had a blast playing games and getting soaked during our water play week. It was great to see so many smiling faces! It was sometimes hard to tell whether the children or the staff were having the most fun.

This week children will be testing their orienteering and map reading skills in an effort to find hidden treasures during our GI YMCA week. They will also be testing their gross motor skills and getting active in a range of physical challenges and obstacle courses.

Places are still available for families looking for quality, fun Out of Hours School Care for their children.

**Important Reminder** - If children will be absent from OSHC, a call, text or email needs to be received by myself prior to 2.30pm on the day of absence. Unfortunately, it can become quite difficult to make calls and search for missing children whilst collecting a large group. To ensure that all children are in safe hands, it is also policy for the YMCA to make a call to police if the whereabouts of a child cannot be confirmed within half an hour of the expected pick up time.
You’re assistance with this matter is very much appreciated. Once again, many thanks for your continued support. We look forward to another fantastic week!

Kind regards
**Kylie Nadalin**
YMCA New Lambton OSHC Coordinator

**Year 4 Mum’s Night Out**
Saturday 12th March @ The Mark Hotel
6:30 Drinks
7:00 Dinner
8:30 Band
RSVP by 6th March to
Kylie (Myles’ Mum 4PV) 0410 320 480 or
Kath (Geordie’s Mum 4C) 0425 266 601

**Athletics Carnival Canteen – Friday 1st April**

*Pre Order Sausage Combo $4*  
Includes sausage on bun, can of drink or bottled water. Orders can be placed via FlexiSchools-Online. If you have not registered for FlexiSchools yet please visit http://www.flexischools.com.au. Orders will close Wed 30th March. Online pre-orders are for students only. There will be extra sausages available for parents to purchase on the day.

*Cake Stall Donations Needed*  
A general call out to all the school to please help with providing baked items (cakes/slices/biscuits) for the sports carnival canteen. The cake stall is always hugely popular with the proceeds going toward the Year 6 gift to the school. Donations of baked items can be taken straight to the canteen at 8.45am – 9.15am on the morning of Friday 1st April.

*Year 6 Parents Roster*  
Year 6 parents are needed to run the canteen and cake stall in 60 min shifts from 9am to 2pm. We also need a couple of extra portable BBQs and Year 6 parents to cook the sausages. If you are able to do a shift or provide an extra BBQ please send a message to Ingrid Ingrid.laycock@gmail.com.
Year 6 Parents Meeting
Mon 14th March 7pm
The next fundraising and end of year activities meeting for Year 6 parents will be held in the Staff tearoom at the school on Monday 14th March at 7pm. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have any suggestions or ideas please put them in an email to ingrid.laycock@gmail.com.

If you haven’t provided an email address yet to keep updated with Year 6 fundraising and end of year activities please drop an email to the above address.

Playgroup this Friday 26th February 2016.
Please come along and join us this week for our regular playgroup session 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 Amy if you have any questions about playgroup on 0407 899 144.

Year 3 Parent Night Out
Where: Parry St Garage (next door to RMS, Parry St Newcastle)
When: Friday 8th April from 6:30pm
Food and Beverages can be purchased on arrival.
As always, we encourage Dads to come (We have a number of Dads already for this night)
If you could let me know whether you can make it, I’ll give them a heads up.

Thank you – Sam (Zander’s Mum) 0421785090

CDF Student Account
The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) can provide your child with a student account that is operated through the school. All parents of kindergarten and new students should have received a ‘Welcome letter and Application Brochure’.

If you would like to open a CDF student account for your child please send the application form and an initial deposit to the office and it will be passed on to the school banking helper for processing. Your child will receive a transaction card and deposit envelope when they open an account. If you do not currently have a student account application form you can contact the CDF on 49 791160 or pick one up from the school office.

The CDF also offer great savings account for parents—phone 1800 810 330 for further information.

Anne Campbell, Client Services Manager, CDF

Helena’s Mandarin Class
My Mandarin classes aim to let your child learning new language with fun & in a relaxed atmosphere. The class is interactive, creative and educational with lots games, songs and play.
Classroom: school’s small hall.
Cost: $15 per lesson. Time: 3:15pm every Tuesday.
For further details please contact me for more information: Helena McNamara
Email: helenamcnamara@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0407 368 322

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Canteen Roster

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