Dear Parents,

I take this opportunity to say that I am back! I would like to thank you all once again for your kind thoughts and support during my time off. I am looking forward to working with you, the staff and your beautiful children once again.

Catholic Schools Week
Next week we celebrate Catholic Schools week. The theme is “I belong, you belong, we belong”. During this week we celebrate the work of St Therese’s staff and students. Parents you are invited to join us on Tuesday 8 March for:
- 9.15am Assembly,
- 10am welcoming cuppa,
- 10:30am you may like to visit your child in the classroom or at whatever activity they are involved in.

School Fees
Term One school fees are now due and payable. Payment can be made weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Payments can be made via cash, cheque, Eftpos, Bpay or Direct Debit. (Direct Debit forms are available from the office)

There is no requirement for parents to pay the whole years school fees up front just by the term.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dear Parents,

Yesterday our teaching staff began the first of several Professional Development opportunities with Associate Professor Catherine Attard (from University of Western Sydney) in teaching Mathematics. Catherine led the staff through hands on activities in problem solving and rich tasks which help provoke critical thinking for our students. Catherine will continue her work with staff with visits to St Therese’s throughout the year.

A reminder of the P & F AGM tonight 7pm in the staffroom. All are welcome to attend.

Enjoy your week,

Sallyanne Stanbridge
Acting Principal

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

KBR Sophie Grogan KHD Rhys Brown
ICH Sean Duff 1C Lucinda Prince 1W
Zoe Loizou 2A Eva Cook and Jayden
Stojkovski 2M Sarah Dwyer and Lewis
O’Dell 2W Sienna Bates and Alexander
Kim 3R Isaac Proleny and Tilly Lonergan
3K Christian Wall and Ava Crouch 3J
Danielle Majdandzic and Marcus Piper 4PV
Jack Price and Jacqueline James 4M
Dominic Mareteich and Keira Campbell 4C
Isa Parker and Taylor Grob and Cohen
Street 5J Elijah Ison and Mikayla Stojkovski
5PD Bella Crouch and Ella Van Duuren
6NG Tabitha Janissen and Maya
Nightingale 6S Ava Douglas and Declan
Hawley 6M Imogen Manditch and Ethan
Crotty

For the next week we will continue to focus 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.

**Uniform**

Just a reminder to all parents to ensure that students wear the correct uniform to school, including school hats. Shoes are to be black leather lace ups or Velcro and joggers are to be predominantly white - we are seeing increasing numbers of students with skate shoes and fluoro runners. Nail polish, fake nails and make up are also not permitted at school; nails must be kept short for the safety of all students.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

In Weeks 8 and 9 you will have the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher to see how they have settled into the 2016 school year and to discuss any concerns you have. All interviews must be made using the online form www.schoolinterviews.com.au and entering the username and password which will be sent home on the note. Select your child’s teacher and click on the best available time for you. ALL bookings will close on Thursday 10 March.

**K Maretich**

**Acting Assistant Principal**

**Lent**

As the weeks of Lent pass rapidly, during our hectic lives, we need to find time to stop and ask ourselves how we are progressing. Are we trying to make changes that will bring us closer to God in our daily lives? Our young children and their families preparing for reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are joining the parish community each Sunday to prepare, setting an example for us. We pray for these families and children as they travel on this Lenten journey of preparation.

**Sacramental News**

Thank you to all the families who attended Mass on Sunday so the children could be presented with a copy of the Creed and a special workbook. Thank you also to those who prepared a wonderful morning tea to share after Mass. Groups have now begun and if you have any queries please contact a member of the Sacramental team as we are here to assist and support you.

**Family Mass**

This Sunday, March 6th we are again invited to participate more fully in the ministries at the 9.15 Mass. We hope to have a large group to come along and join us at this Mass. Please look for the coloured note and return by Thursday if you can assist in some way. Making links between our school and Parish is one of our goals this year and we need everyone’s support to achieve this.

**Sport News**

Last week notes were sent home regarding our upcoming Athletics Carnival. Please return notes by this Friday 4th as we need to be organised for Friday 11th March for our trials at Alder Park oval. If you can assist us on that day/or April 1st we would be grateful.

**Kids Matter - GRIT**

In last week’s Newsletter I wrote about grit. In recent studies, grit has been identified as a significant predictor of life success. Developing resilience and grit, amongst other elements of wellbeing, in our students is a big focus at St Therese’s. Below are a few tips for developing grit in your child at home.

1. Learn more about grit. At Angela Duckworth’s UPenn website, you can take a test to figure out your own or your child’s “grit” score. Or read books about grit – two that are recommended on her website are: “How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character” by Paul Tough or “David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants” by Malcom Gladwell.

2. Instead of praising your child for their grades or for being “smart,” praise them for being tenacious and determined. Focusing on those qualities of “stick-to-it-ness” may help kids succeed more than praise for particular achievements. If your child falls down when learning to ride a bike, praise his efforts at getting back up and trying again and again, rather than only praising when he learns to ride fast on his own.

3. Allow your child to get frustrated. Parents hate to see their kids struggle. But learning from challenges (as well as failure) is the key to making the connection for kids that true achievement doesn’t come easily.

4. Focus family discussions on effort rather than grades or innate skill. Be a role model for your child of “grittiness.” Try new things and talk about how difficult they are and how they don’t come easily to you. Talk about your own goals -- running a half-marathon, cleaning out the garage -- and explain how you set smaller goals to achieve them. Share your own struggles and how you got past them.

5. Reframe Problems. Students need perspective about problems to prevent them from giving up, quitting or losing hope. Grit is about not freaking out, taking a deep breath, and moving on.

6. Most of all, remind your kids every day that failure is not something to be afraid of!

Good luck improving your “grittiness”

**ICAS Reminder**

Just a reminder that all ICAS Assessment forms for students grades 3 - 6 are due in to the office, with payment, by Friday 18th. If you need another note, they are available at the front office.

**Julia Briggs – Primary Coordinator**

**Annual Schools Clean-up Day**

As some of you may know, last Friday the 26 February, was the Annual Schools Clean-up Day in Australia. On this day schools are encouraged to increase the environmental awareness of their students by trying to reduce rubbish pollution, increase recycling and encouraging environmentally friendly food packaging. Of course this shouldn’t just happen on one day of the year, but every day. One of our core values at St Therese’s is respect - you can respect our school by keeping it clean and taking pride in our environment. This is just one of the messages our team will be sharing with you this year and hopefully step by step, we will come closer to our goal of being an environmentally aware community who are leading the way in best environmentally friendly practise.

**Charlie Dickson and Nina Keegan - Environmental Team Captains.**

**Rugby League**

Last week a number of children went to the Central Region Rugby League Trials and I thank all the boys for their effort and sportsmanship shown throughout the day. The following boys were selected to attend the Diocesan Trials, Congratulations to; I1’s
Dear Parents/Carers,

OSHC

Orders on this day but will be open to serve ice blocks. Please note the canteen will be closed for all other lunch orders. Students can order a Sushi roll for $4 or a Pre Order Sausage Combo for $4. Orders can be placed via FlexiSchools or online at www.flexischools.com.au.

Canteen News

Canteen News - Sushi rolls are back each and every Tuesday. Made locally by Sushi 4 You in New Lambton. Orders can only be placed via Flexischools (https://www.flexischools.com.au). You have until 9am on the day to place your order.

Pizza Combo Day

The pizza day is this Friday 4 March! This is a Year 6 fundraiser and orders must be placed via flexischools (https://www.flexischools.com.au) by WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 3PM. $5 buys you a freshly baked individual pizza, a juice AND a chocolate. Choose from Hawaiian or Meatlovers (gluten free also available). Please note the canteen will be closed for all other lunch orders on this day but will be open to serve ice blocks.

OSHC

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another fantastic week was had at the YMCA with children having a blast participating in some of our GI YMCA challenges. The highlight of the week was our scavenger hunt. It was great to see children working well together in teams in a bid to decode clues and gather as many items as possible in order to take home the prize. We still have places available for those families looking for quality Out of School Hours Care.

How time flies when you’re having fun! We are now entering week six, so it’s time to start thinking about your child care needs for the holidays. Will you be working these holidays or just looking to help your children beat the boredom. The YMCA offers a Vacation Care program designed with a focus on having fun while learning new skills, making new friends and having new experiences. Children are involved in a host of exciting day excursions along with a range activities, including art, craft, cooking, sport, dance and drama. Our full program is now being finalised and will be available on our website very soon. For all enquiries, please call Kylie on 0402 165 617 or pop into the service between the hours of 7am and 10am or between 1.30pm and 6pm.

Have a great week!

Kind regards,

Kylie Nadalin

YMCA New Lambton OSHC Coordinator

Athletics Carnival Canteen – Friday 1st April

Pre Order Sausage Combo $4

Includes sausage on bun, can of drink or bottled water. Orders must be placed via FlexiSchools-Online. If you have not registered for FlexiSchools yet please visit http://www.flexischools.com.au/ Orders will close Wednesday 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 Harker Oval from 9am or left at the school canteen between 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 – Monday 14th March 7pm

The next fundraising and end of year activities meeting for Year 6 parents will be held in the Staffroom 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.

Easter Raffle

Our legendary Easter Raffle is back. Friday 4th of March is an out of uniform day and children are asked to donate an item for the Easter Raffle.

Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2 - small solid or filled eggs
Year 3 & Year 4 - medium sized hunting eggs
Year 5 & Year 6 - large eggs or bunnies
Non-chocolate and nut free donations are also gratefully excepted to cater for any children with allergies.

Children will receive a book of 10 raffle tickets on Monday 7th. Tickets are 50c each, and additional books will be available at the office. Money and ticket stubs, clearly marked with your child’s name and class, are due back to school by Thursday 24 March, prizes are drawn in class after recess.

**Helpers Required**
On Monday 21st March, after drop off, kindy parents as well as other parents who can volunteer on the morning, are needed for wrapping the Easter raffle prizes. If you can help out, please email or text Natalie Evans (0414429807 / n.m.evans@bigpond.com).

**Thomas Levey at Leadership Day**

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**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**

**Brigitte Davis, Ellen Hughes and Ella Barradeen at Leadership Day**

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