Our Vision: “To Bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.”

Principal’s Message
Dear Parents, Staff and Students
I take this opportunity to wish all staff and students a restful break. I thank the staff for their continuing support of the students. I know it can be hard for families at holiday time especially working parents but if you get a chance try and enjoy the time you have with your children, remember you can’t get this time back.

Friday In-service – Differentiated Assessment
On Friday of last week staff travelled to the University of NSW to listen to speakers on the importance of differentiating assessment for all our students but especially for our more able students. As you know we have started a refocus on our gifted and more able students and over the next year we will begin the task of better identification of these students as well as better catering for their needs.

What’s Happening at St Therese’s
The following is taken from Media Centre for Educational Research (MCERA) and focuses on:- Why we still focus on handwriting?

“In an era when so much of our communication is done via computer or other screens, it may seem strange that so much focus is still placed on handwriting. In your day-to-day life, you may very seldom need to handwrite anything; and so you wonder: if the world has moved so far from handwriting, why does it matter if my child is practising theirs? Associate Professor Noella Mackenzie of Charles Sturt University has been researching this very thing, and has found that there are a lot of reasons why handwriting remains important. “If our handwriting is automatic and fast, we can concentrate on other elements of writing, such as composing the message,” Assoc Prof Mackenzie said. “But handwriting and keyboarding skills both require complex sensory, motor, perceptual and cognitive skills, and we are not giving students the instruction or the time to develop and practise these skills so they become efficient and automatic practitioners. If we expect a child to produce a piece of writing, we need to teach them how, so they can choose the best tools for the task and use them efficiently so they don’t interfere with the task itself. Handwriting skills remain essential for students at all levels of schooling, and support the development of reading, spelling, vocabulary and other cognitive abilities, as well as fine motor skills.” For further information, see Mackenzie, N.M. & Spokes, R. (2017). Handwriting and keyboard skills, in N.M. Mackenzie & J.A. Scull (eds), Understanding and supporting young writers, Routledge, UK: Oxfordshire.

Here at St Therese’s, for the past three years we have been focusing on the above. Our Occupational Therapist (OT) Karen Ray with the help of OT’s from the University of Newcastle has developed a program “Write Start” which focuses on developing automaticity of handwriting in other words children write letters and words without thinking about how to do it. By developing this skill children’s working memory is freed up so that they are able to concentrate on the task of writing rather than focusing on how to write letters. The Write Start Program begins in Kinder and continues through until the end of year 2 and into year 3 if needed. There has been significant growth in writing as a consequence of this fabulous program.

Manly Selective Band Visit
We are welcoming the Manly Selective Campus Band on Monday 30th April for a one hour performance for students and any parents and carers are welcome to join us – please be seated by 11.50am in the Main Hall.

Duilio Rufo Principal
Assistant Principal’s Message

ANZAC Day
On Wednesday 25 April there will be a march from New Lambton Swimming Pool starting at 10:15am to New Lambton Park Bowling Park for an ANZAC service that starts at 11:00am. I invite all families to join me and the school captains for this important event as we remember all those who have fought and continue to fight for our nation.

Kaylene Maretich - Assistant Principal

RE News

From Pope Francis @ pontifex.
"Let us go forward with the joy of the Resurrection, knowing He is always by our side!"

SACRAMENTAL NEWS
Notes were sent home yesterday with important follow-up information re the Sacraments. If you were unable to attend the meeting last Wednesday you will need to come in to collect the necessary material for your child’s preparation. We would appreciate it if forms that need to be returned are sent in at your earliest convenience. Please place in a clearly marked envelope and return to the Admin area.

PROJECT COMPASSION
Thank you to the many families who have donated to CARITAS through their PC boxes. We would be grateful if you could please return these by the end of the Term, so we can send our cheque off to assist those in need.

Vickie Pettett - Religious Education Coordinator

Library News

Book Fair Parade and World Environment Day Celebrations
This year we are going ‘Environmentally Friendly’ for our book parade. Students will be asked to dress-up using items they already have at home, or if they are feeling creative, design a costume using recycled materials. Preparing a costume might be a fun holiday activity. Students can be a character from any story. The Book Week theme is Find Your Treasure. By having a recycled costume parade, we hope to save our greatest treasure - Earth. More information in Term 2.

Parade Date: 6 June 2018 9.45am
Lynette Barker & Mandy Shumack Teacher Librarians

School Community Notices

Eco Warrior Challenge
Refuse disposable plastic bottles of water and carry a filled reusable water bottle with you (glass or stainless steel).

ICAS Digital Technologies
Just a reminder that if you are enrolled for the Digital Technologies Assessment it will be held at 8.00am on Tuesday 8th May (Term 2 Week 2) in Ms Mortimer’s 6W classroom. Please ensure you attend on this day - the assessment will not be made up, unless you are away ill.

Julia Briggs - Primary Coordinator

Mother’s Day Stall, Raffle & Breakfast
Please keep an eye out for notes going home today relating to the Mother’s Day Stall on 7th May, Raffle being drawn at Breakfast on 14th May.

P & F News

Today, you should receive some raffle tickets home from the P&F. As some of you know, one of our P&F fundraising events for late 2017 was postponed, and due to scheduling conflicts, we have been unable to find a suitable date to reschedule this event for 2018. As we had already received several generous donations from local businesses for the postponed event, we are holding a Mother's Day raffle for these prizes. There are lots of fantastic prizes to be won, and we hope you will help support our P&F. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 14th May at the Mother’s Day Breakfast.

We would also like to send out a gigantic thank you to all of the businesses that have supported us with their donations and have also offered their support for future fundraising events. At present, we will not be holding a trivia night in 2018, but we do hope to hold a major fundraising event in 2019 and will be incredibly thankful for any donations from our community to support our school.

Due to the major school building that will be taking place soon, our focus for P&F fundraising this year will be to support the school in fitting out the new buildings, for example, air-conditioning and furniture. As you can imagine, we have a lot of work in front of us and so we hope you will support all of the fundraising events that are planned for the remainder of 2018.
Our next P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st May at 7pm in the staffroom, with doors opening at 6:30pm for a casual coffee and chat. Everyone is welcome, and if you have anything that you would like to discuss at the meeting, please email helenlmshah@gmail.com or jo.kim@outlook.com to add it to the agenda.

**Playgroup – 13th April**
This Friday Playgroup will be back in the school hall and the children will have fun baking cookies! This is the last playgroup for the term so come along and join us this Friday 13th February from 9.15am - 11.15am. Cost is $3 per family with morning tea provided for parents. Please bring a drink and snack for your children. Please contact Kate if you have any questions about playgroup on 0414952491. Look forward to seeing you there.

**Canteen News**
Ice Monies will not be available in Terms 2 & 3 but will return in Term 4. Please don’t forget to RSVP to the Mothers Day Breakfast on Monday 14 May so I can ensure there is enough breakfast for everybody that comes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 11/4</th>
<th>Thursday 12/4</th>
<th>Friday 13/4</th>
<th>Monday 30/4</th>
<th>Tuesday 1/5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanya Grogan</td>
<td>Belinda Mortimore</td>
<td>Kristy Lawrence</td>
<td>Amy Hilton</td>
<td>Renae Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Bodel</td>
<td>Laura Bennett</td>
<td>Jo Buckingham</td>
<td>Jenni Trummel</td>
<td>Katrina Duggan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bianca Trounson</td>
<td>Megan Collins</td>
<td>Camelia Meleka</td>
<td>Donna Carters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Belinda Palmer – Canteen Supervisor**

**Yarn donations**
As part of our Creative Arts program Year 5 children will weaving baskets from rope and yarn. The teachers would appreciate donations of balls of wool or acrylic yarn. The baskets are to be sold for the LOTUS foundation at the art and crafts show. Year 5 will collect the wool or yarn from your child’s class. Thank you in advance.

*Anne Sturt, Year 5 teacher*

**Wellbeing**

**Kids Matter - Teachable Moments**
Every time school holidays are approaching, whether I am teaching Kindergarten or Year 6, I get asked by parents if they can be doing any extra work at home to help support their child. In my opinion, school holidays are a time for play, relaxation and recharging of batteries, but some parents worry their child’s academic achievement will slide or that their child needs extra practice to keep up with their peers. Is there a place for schoolwork in the holidays? My recommendation would be to keep things relaxed, but I would say reading is an important activity to continue over the break. Reading to or with your child is new learning, plus entertainment. Parents should discuss what they have read with their child; this is not only a great way to check for your child’s understanding of what has been read, but also an opportunity for some of that cherished one-on-one time that children crave. Other learning activities such as StudyLadder and Manga High are okay and have their place, but they are not the be all and end all. It’s all about interaction with other people. The most important work for your child over the break is play – talk to your child, definitely read, but use those times when you are out at the park, the shops, the beach etc to be your teachable moments. The holidays are a renewal time for neurological pathways, so you get productive learning when students come back. Enjoy the break!

**PBS**

**School Spirit Awards**
The awards listed below were for last week’s virtue of RESPECT through Encouraging Others. Today begins the next fortnightly focus upon the virtue of Forgiveness. When we forgive others, it is also a way of showing RESPECT. Being forgiving is giving someone another chance after they have done something wrong. Everyone makes mistakes. Instead of revenge, make amends. Forgive yourself too. Instead of feeling hopeless after a mistake, decide to act differently, and have faith that you can change.

---

**Principal Award recipients for this week:**
Phoebe M. (KW), Erin S. (KW), Eamon D. (KW), Milla G. (KW), Nina D. (1W), Roman P. (1W), Liam B. (1L), Sophie S. (1L), Maya F. (2W), Olivia M. (2W), Phoenix J. (3L), Tavian Q. (3L), Matthew A. (4L), Jorja M. (4L), Timothy M. (4L), Tom S. (4L), Siena S. (4L), Jason J. (4L), Ruby L. (4L), Lucinda M. (4L), Max P. (4L) Delaney T. (4L), Saige T. (4L), Indie B. (5L) and Imogen R. (6L), George H. (3N)
Luke Smith Coordinator

Sport
Cross Country
Thank you to the Grade 6 teachers for organising the school cross country last week. It was a wonderful day and we appreciate your effort. Well done to all students who participated and in particular to those who showed true grit and perseverance throughout the races. A big thank you to all parent and teacher helpers, without you volunteering your time these events would be difficult to run. Congratulations to the top 3 girl and top 3 boy students who have progressed onto the Diocesan Cross country in May. All children have the information and paperwork for this event and it would be greatly appreciated if you could bring back the relevant paperwork asap. Mr John Rouse will accompany the children to the next cross country.

Commonwealth Games
A big thank you to the Active Lifestyle team who ran a number of fun activities for all students last Wednesday to acknowledge the beginning of the Commonwealth Games. Each grade had a country to represent and our school was alive with colour, happiness and active living.

Deb Petersen Primary Coordinator

Pivotal Cup - Basketball
Two teams have now been selected to compete in the Pivotal Cup. Riley Cashman's mum, Sally, has kindly offered to help coach the teams. Training will begin next Term on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm. If you have not already returned your permission slip to attend the competition on Saturday June 16th, please do so asap.

Julia Briggs - Primary Coordinator
General notices

OOSH
Hi from the Y.......... Book now for Vacation Care as the places are filling fast! Please take a look at our fantastic program outlined in the flyer.

Kind regards,

Christine Morgan
YMCA NSW – Newcastle Region | St Therese’s Primary School, New Lambton NSW 2305
m 0402 165 617
e oshc.newlambton@ymcansw.org.au w ymcansw.org.au
BOOT CAMP

23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th April 9am - 3pm
- Fitness      - Fun      - Friendship

* NON-MEMBERS WELCOME *

1st child $50 - additional children $25
Includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea

44 Park Avenue Adamstown 2289 - 4952 2444 - www.pollets.com.au
Compulsory School Attendance: Information For Parents

Why must I send my child to school?
Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age of 17 are legally required to attend school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport? YES.
Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport. Do not keep your child away from school for the following:
- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine checkups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.
Non urgent Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Must I send my child every day? YES.
It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child has to:
- to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral, family emergency)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Why is arriving at school on time important?
Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?
If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
- send a note, fax or email to the school
- text the school (if this function is available)
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance, for small amounts of time and for whole days.
The Principal of the school has the right to question parents’ or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school. Principals

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

Minors are only allowed to be absent from school if:
- gives your child time to socialise with friends before class and therefore reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.
are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness. If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school in advance and request leave if the period is longer than 10 school days. Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

Here are some suggestions to help:
• Have a set time to be out of bed.
• Have a set time to go to bed.
• Have uniform and school bag ready the night before.
• Make lunches the night before.
• Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
• Set time for daily homework activities.
• Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate.
• Be firm, children must go to school.
• Provide lots of positive encouragement.
• Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday.
• Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly.

If you are still having problems after trying some strategies you should contact the school as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help.

What if my child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance?

It is important to understand that the Catholic Schools Office may take further action in cases where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school. This can include requesting that parents and sometimes their child go to a compulsory attendance conference to help identify the barriers to the child’s attendance and implement strategies with parents, the school and other agencies who might be able to assist. If all attempts by schools and systems to improve attendance have been unsuccessful, fines imposed by the Local Court can reach a maximum of 100 penalty points. This is equivalent to a maximum of $11,000.00.

At what age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:
• in school or registered for home schooling, or
• in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship)
• in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Further information regarding school attendance
info@mn.catholic.edu.au