Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Today we welcomed our new Kinder parents and students with great excitement and a few tears. The teachers reported that all the children have settled into school life and are already enjoying the openness of the classrooms. This year, in line with the Early Learning Framework we will be using a Reggio approach to learning. The Reggio approach is more of a structured play approach which many of our Preschools are using. We have also introduced Story Park Communication tool for kinder and we hope to ensure that our Kinder children have a smooth and happy transition to ‘Big School’.

Swimming Carnival

My thanks to parents, and staff for helping organise a fabulous Swimming Carnival. In particular my congratulations to Mrs Debra Petersen for her great work in running the day. Also well done to our children who helped make the day a success by their cooperation and excellent behaviour.

Duilio Rufo - Principal
Working with Children Check for all volunteers: IMPORTANT INFORMATION!
Due to changes in legislation and the implementation of the New Working With Children Check Clearance across NSW, all school volunteers are required to obtain a Working with Children Check Clearance Number from the Office of the Children’s Guardian (OGC). This includes those volunteering in the canteen, helpers with reading, art, sport, transporting children or in any other capacity where they have direct contact with children. Even those who have completed previous Child Protection Declarations and are on the Register of Volunteers will need to obtain a Working with Children Check Clearance Number.

The steps to obtain a Working with Children Check Clearance Number are as follows:
· Fill out an online application form at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check
· When you have completed the application form, you will receive an Application number (APP) by email.
· Take this Application number and proof of your identity to a NSW motor registry or Service NSW Office. As it is not paid work the $80 fee will be waived.
· Once your application has been processed and you are cleared, you will receive your Working With Children Check number (WWC) by email (or post if you do not have an email address)
· Bring your Working With Children Check number to the school and fill in the Declaration Form. You will need to bring proof of identity documents with you for a 100 point check. Your WWC number and form will then be sent to our Diocesan Child Protection Unit (Zimmerman Services) to be put on the new Register of Volunteers.

Please see attached Volunteer Induction Handbook. If you are unable to print at home please contact Office for a copy.

Choir and Caring Group
This week Alina Brymora our music teacher will start the Music Program for 2017 with Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2). Alina will work with these grades every Thursday for this term. In term 2, Alina will work with Years 3 and 4.

Our P & F has for several years now coordinated a Caring Group which assists families when they may be in need. Liz Etheridge works very hard in coordinating this group. If you would like to join this group and assist in a cooking roster or some other way, please call Liz on 0407 703 084 or email: elizabeth.etheridge@dsiunderground.com.au. We will assume that those people already on our Caring Group list are happy to remain there for 2017. If you do not wish to continue, please contact Liz.

Sallyanne Stanbridge - Assistant Principal

RE News
All classes have been busily revisiting our identity as a Catholic primary school, identifying the legacy of the sisters of Mercy, our Awabakal forebears and the story of St Therese. We will again have the opportunity for classes to celebrate Friday Masses during the Term, the first of which will be in Week 5, 24th February for Grade 1, 3 and 5. In Week 9, 24th March grades 2, 4 and 6 will celebrate together. Primary students will attend an Ash Wednesday Mass on March 1st, while students in Infant classes will have a Liturgy later in the day.

Families are warmly invited to join us in the Hall on Friday, 17th February at 9:30 for our Opening Celebration. There will be a welcoming cuppa after for any interested parents.

Last year we trialled celebrating our “Sunday School Parish” Mass at the Sunday evening time of 5:45pm. This was more successful than the morning time of 9:15. This year we are going to move to the third Sunday of the month and collaborate with the young people of “Lifeteen”, who organise the music for this Mass. The first of these Masses will be on Sunday 19th February and we encourage our families to come along and make this a special celebration of school and Parish working together. We thank Ellen from “Lifeteen” for inviting us to work together.

Words from Pope Francis
Take action! Live life to the full! And when others see the witness you give, they may ask: why do you live this way? (Pope Francis @pontifex)

Vickie Pettett – Religious Coordinator

Pastoral Care
Welcome back to our students and well done to parents, you have survived. The school year has started off enthusiastically by students and staff and the weather lived up to predictions. If you have not noticed yet, our kinder buildings are mirroring the school’s future vision for all classrooms. They no longer resemble the old. They look and feel so welcoming. I look forward to this year with your children and please let us know if you or your family need support in any area. As you know we have been a Kids Matter school for 3 years and last year the Highway Hero’s programme was implemented. Feedback from parents and children tell us that the programme is effective with children repeating and modelling aspects of their weekly class programme.

“Changing perception, changing attitude.” We will continue introducing awareness based programmes on safety and protection for the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of our students and you their parents. More on this later. I will leave you with a quote from Byron Katie.
Hurt feelings or discomfort of any kind cannot be caused by another person. No one outside me can hurt me. That’s not a possibility. It’s only when I believe a stressful thought that I get hurt. And I’m the one hurting me by believing what I think. This is very good news, because it means that I don’t have to get someone else to stop hurting me. I’m the one who can stop hurting me. It’s within my power. Byron Katie.

Blessing,
Cheryl Roberts – Pastoral Care Worker

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)
Our four core values at St Therese's are; respect, integrity, care & compassion and inclusivity. Each term we focus on one value and the behaviours related to developing that value. The Term 1 focus is RESPECT and for the next two weeks we will be working with our students on displaying effective manners. We often think of manners as saying "please" and "thank you" but it is also our turn, allowing others to go before us rather than pushing to always be first and remembering behaviours that are appropriate to the situation we find ourselves in. One saying we often use at St Therese's is "manners cost nothing" but the recipient feels valued and respected. Over the next two weeks talk to your child about using their manners and provide praise and encouragement for manners shown.

Beginning in week 5 our Year 6 PBS team will provide a short presentation at each Tuesday assembly on our focus behaviours. I look forward to working with the PBS team who have already displayed great enthusiasm and leadership in this area.

Mathletics
Students in Years 5 & 6 should have received their Mathletics login yet, today please see your child's teacher if they haven't received these details. Parents with children in Years 1-4 who opted to join Mathletics will receive their child's login by Friday this week. Kindergarten students will receive an information letter about Mathletics this week and need to return the note by WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY. Just a reminder that Mathletics for students in Kindergarten - Year 4 is OPTIONAL, students will NOT be disadvantaged if they don't have access to this program.

Kaylene Maretich - Primary Coordinator

Kids Matter – Highway Heroes
This Term classes K to 6 will be implementing one of the 4 “Highway Heroes” Modules based on Emotional Resilience. You may hear about this from your children, teachers may send home information based on the concepts being covered and there will be ongoing information in the weekly Newsletter. It is important that we use a common language across the school and at home; talk to your children about what they are learning and help them navigate life’s highway.

One of the most important things you can teach your children is to recognize what they are feeling and to express their feelings in words. Help your children grow by teaching the many words for different emotions, and using examples when those feelings arise in themselves and others. People’s actions can be “bad” but the feelings themselves are never “bad”. One reason children get stuck and don’t want to talk about feelings, even if you ask them to, is because they can confuse how they feel as being “bad” or “a problem” when it is actually the tough thing that happened that is the problem. Feelings are like important road signs, if we understand them and listen to them. They can teach us where to go next and what to look for.

Many children shut down when they are upset because they think all feelings except for happy ones are negative and shameful. When you teach your kids the language for many different feelings and invite them to explore and share them, it makes difficult feelings normal and healthy. The result is the development of emotional smarts and social skills. They can deal with what they are feeling and have stronger friendships too. This also helps them have better self-esteem. Even anger can be helpful when kids learn how to cope with it. The emotion of anger brings awareness that something is hurtful. When we recognize that we are hurt, our problem-solving skills can improve. Stay tuned for more of the Highway Heroes language in future newsletters.

Julia Briggs - Primary Coordinator

BOOK CLUB
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 15th Feb.
Library pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as Christmas, birthdays, rewards etc. Clearly mark the order ‘Library pick-up’ and add a contact number.

Please note: St Therese’s School is not on ‘Loop’, therefore parent payments may be made online but ALL orders must be sent to school. REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.

Jenny Boyko - Library Officer
Playgroup this Friday 10th February
Please come along and join us for our first playgroup for 2017. Playgroup will be in the school hall from 9.15am - 11am and will include some fun art and craft for Valentine's Day.
Cost is $3 with morning tea provided for the parents. Please bring a drink and snack for your children.
We look forward to seeing you all and welcoming some new parents from our 2017 kinders!
Please contact Kate if you have any questions about playgroup on 0414952491.

OSHC
Dear Parents/Carers,
A big welcome to back to our existing families and welcome to all of our new families and Kindy students. We have been fortunate to have had a great response from new families, taking in over 40 new children this year already. Due to the increase in our before and after school numbers, I strongly encourage families to get all permanent bookings finalised soon to secure places. For those families using casual care, could you please ensure that all BSC and ASC days are requested as far in advance as possible to allow us to staff accordingly? Due to large numbers, I will not be able to guarantee places will be available at short notice. I will require notice for before school casual bookings also, due to an increase in our morning numbers.

Once again, we will be having themed weeks based on our children’s suggestions and interests. This week, we will welcome our Kindy students to the Y by running a variety of getting to know you activities, group games and team building exercises. Due to the hot weather, we will use the sprinkler and some water play activities at times to cool the kids down. Please let me know, if you do not wish for your children to get wet.

ABSENCES – Please ensure that all absences are notified prior to 3pm daily. Police will be notified in cases where I am unable to confirm the whereabouts of a child booked in to care within half an hour of school pick up time. A $10 search fee will also be applied. Thank you for your consideration.

Have a fantastic week and great start to Term 1!

Kind regards,
Kylie Nadalin
YMCA New Lambton OSHC Coordinator

Swimming Carnival 2017
Yesterday’s carnival was a great success thanks to the cooperation, behaviour and support from our teachers, our parents and the students. Congratulations to GOLD House who won the carnival by only 2 point. GREEN was second on 342 points, followed by BLUE and RED.

Our swimming champions are:
- Junior Girl: Andie Widseth
- 11yrs Girl: Mikayla Stojkovski
- Senior Girl: Bella Crouch
- Junior Boy: Mostyn Bowen
- 11yrs Boy: Sullivan O’Sheades
- Senior Boy: Yne Han Leong

These children will be recognised further and presented with their medallion at a future assembly.

Congratulations also to the 52 person squad that will come to the Regional Carnival next Tuesday with myself and Mr Rufo. Notes will go out asap and please return these to school before the end of this week.

Thankyou again to our wonderful school community for all your help.

Debra Petersen - Primary Coordinator

Sport Days for 2017
- Kinder: Friday
- Year 1: Friday
- Year 2: Thursday
- Year 3: Wednesday
- Year 4: Wednesday
- Year 5: Thursday
- Year 6: Friday
Piano/Keyboard/Guitar lessons  
$20 lesson ring Ben on 0408 504 882

Canteen News  
Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help in the canteen this year. I have emailed the roster and it is also soon be on the website and Skoolbag app. There are gaps on some days so if you are you able to help please let me know. The menu and price list are also available on Flexischools, the website and Skoolbag app. The only change from last year is that our homemade choc muffins are now $1.20. Also just a reminder that every Friday is online orders only. No paper bag orders please.

Dinner's Ready - Why not pick up dinner when you pick up the kids. Freshly prepared meals are available from Four Peppermints Catering (aka Belinda from the canteen). Something different is available every day - ranging from slow cooked lasagne to cheesy chicken pie, pulled pork to quiche. All the details are on www.fourpeppermints.com.au Order via Flexischools or contact me directly - Belinda 0447 509 968.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/2/17</td>
<td>9/2/17</td>
<td>10/2/17</td>
<td>13/2/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqui Osborn Amanda Smerekanycz Amy Gibson</td>
<td>Sheppard Laura Street Sally Trevitt</td>
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For Sale: Bunk bed set, can be used as bunks or 2 single beds. Timber and black metal, in good condition, with all hardware supplied. $200 ONO. Call Catherine 0411492674.

Uniforms for Sale
Size 4 All white/leather sports shoes $10 - never worn.
Size 8 Girls sport's skirt/shorts - St Mark's brand $5 Size 10 Girl's Royal blue bike shorts - small sized look like a size 8 $3
Size 10 Girls Navy Blue bike shorts $3 Size 12 Girls Royal blue dance pants $10 Size 10 Royal blue track pants $10.
Phone 0403811102

For Sale: West Leagues netball uniforms. In perfect condition. Only worn for one season.
Size 12 and a Kids size 14. $30 each
Ph: 0466022251
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lunch Bag</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwiches &amp; Salads</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegemite</td>
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<td>Cheese</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<td>Egg</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egg &amp; Lettuce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salad (Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Carrot)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<td>Ham &amp; Salad</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher’s Salad Plate (Ham, Salad, Beetroot, Shallots, Cheese, Egg &amp; Avo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caesar Salad (Lettuce, Egg, Bacon, Cheese, Croutons &amp; Dressing)</td>
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<td>Add 50c for Roll or Wrap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add 50c for Avo, Egg or Cheese</td>
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<td><strong>Fruit &amp; Veg</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrot Sticks</td>
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<td>Fruit</td>
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<td><strong>Drinks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% Juice (Apple, Tropical, Orange)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flavoured Milk (Choc, Strawberry)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Snacks</strong></td>
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<td>Hello Pandas</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$0.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jumpy’s (BBQ, Chicken)</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Rock Deli Chips (Plain, Honey Soy)</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<td>Choc Chip Muffin</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<td><strong>Cold Treats</strong></td>
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<td>Zooper Dooper</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juicies (Apple, Apple/Blackcurrant, Orange, Tropical, Wildberry)</td>
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<td>Lemonade Fizz</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
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<td>Moosies (Choc, Strawberry, Banana)</td>
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<td>Dixie Cup</td>
<td>$1.10</td>
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<td>Fandangle (Fairy Floss, Choc Mallow)</td>
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<td>Slushie</td>
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Tuning in to Kids

Building Emotional Intelligence through Conscious Parenting

A six session parenting program for parents of children aged 2-12

Facilitated by Jenni Gilmour, Child and Family Psychologist

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence. Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

**Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!**

Where: The Family Health and Wellness Centre, OTP House, Kotara
When: Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm
Starting February 28th for 6 weeks
Cost: $360 (Rebates available)
Call 4956 3353 to Register

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CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at St Therese’s Primary School (New Lambton) is held on Mondays from 8:10am to 9:10am, starting on 13 February 2017.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.
Wanderers Junior Rugby Union Registration Days for U/6’s to U/17’s Boys & Girls.
Friday 10th of February from 5pm to 7pm
Saturday 11th of February from 3pm to 5pm

The Blue Room, upstairs at No2 Sports Ground, Smith Street, Newcastle
Jonny Clifford, 0434 365469

Kotara Bears Junior Rugby League Club is seeking players in all age groups for 2017.
On-line registrations are now open.
Come along to our 1st training session and BBQ on Tues 7th Feb at 5.30pm at Hudson Park.
Competition starts Sat 1st April
REGISTRATION COSTS
Registration fees are:
$80 for minis (under 6 to under 8) $110 for under 9’s to under 17’s

See our Facebook page ‘Kotara Bears Juniors’ Visit www.kotarabears.com For further info: Craig Woolcock 0400 299030

Come and Try Tigers Hockey!!!
Get involved in a fun and interactive sport. Come and try something new!!
Open to ALL juniors under 18
Sunday 19th February @ 10.00am – 11.30am – Newcastle International Hockey Centre
Follow us on @ Tigers Hockey Club Newcastle
Contact: Greg Roach 0412 432625

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION DAYS
Save the date...
The Special Needs Working Party in conjunction with the CSO Teaching and Learning Unit is pleased to again be presenting an opportunity for parents and carers who have children enrolled in our schools with additional needs an opportunity to hear about the support available to them and their child in our Catholic schools.

These days are to be held as follows:

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSWELLBROOK
✔ Tuesday, 14 March 11.00am – 1.00pm

ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL TAREE
✔ Tuesday, 21 March 11.00am – 1.00pm

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL KOTARA SOUTH
✔ Tuesday, 28 March 11.00am – 1.00pm

Please RSVP to….
Cath Garrett-Jones
P: 4979 1303  E: cath.garrett-jojnes@mn.catholic.edu.au