Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome Parents, Students and Staff to Catholic Schools Week
Catholic Schools Week is not just a celebration of the great work of Catholic Schools in the secular education of our children it is also a celebration of its evangelic mission of passing on the Catholic Religion’s traditions, values and world view. Catholic Schools offer our children opportunities to focus on the Gospel values of compassion, love and acceptance.

Yesterday Dr Michael Slattery, (new Director of Catholic Schools) and Dr Barbara Myors, Assistant Director of Catholic Schools visited St Therese’s. They spoke to me about the fabulous work we are doing in Reading in particular Reading Comprehension with Dr Gail Brown from the University of Newcastle as well as the innovative work that is going on with Multi-Sensory Learning (MSL). Our own Sarah Barnes in moving this MSL teaching style throughout the school. We also spoke about the work of Lynette Barker in the area of technology and her work in ensuring that STEM along with coding and gaming are embedded throughout the curriculum. Dr Slattery was very interested in learning about the work we are doing with Kinder and our Kinder teachers approach to learning. We also spoke of the work of Cheryl Roberts and her Pastoral Care of the children and he was impressed to know that St Therese’s focus was on Numeracy, Literacy and Religious Education. Dr Slattery passed on his thanks and gratitude to the staff for the excellent work, to the parents for their support and to the children for their happy and vibrant selves.

Today four of our school leaders Grace Golledge, Sam Bottom, Chiara Martinelli and Thomas Mortimore travelled to the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton to celebrate Mass with Bishop Bill and the whole Diocesan School Community.

I remind parents that tomorrow morning St Therese’s will be holding open classrooms from 9.30am to 10.30am morning tea will be available in the school hall.

P&F Meeting
Tonight commencing at 7pm we will be holding the P&F AGM in the school staff room all are welcome.

Staff In-service Day
Please note that Friday 7th April (last day of Term 1) will be a PUPIL FREE DAY.

Duilio Rufo – Principal
Creative Learning Journeys
Last Thursday 3SJ had the opportunity to participate in a Video Conference from the Sydney Opera House with children's author Leigh Hobbs. Children from schools around NSW joined the interview, which particularly centred on his series of books about Horrible Harriet. Like other schools, St Therese’s had the opportunity to ask Leigh a question about his work.

The interview was part of the Sydney Opera House’s ‘Creative Learning Journeys’ which gives students in regional schools the opportunity to participate in excursions and cultural experiences being conducted at the Opera House via Video Conferencing. All of year 3 will participate in two more such opportunities later in the year (Terms 2 and 3), one a dance theatre production ‘The Wolf and Peter’. The other opportunity will focus on our History studies, with an Indigenous elder from Bennelong talking about the challenges our first people faced with the arrival of the First Fleet.

Sallyanne Stanbridge - Assistant 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 (OCG). 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.

RE News
LENT QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS
"Each of us has a vision of good and of evil. We have to encourage people to move towards what they think is good... Everyone has his own idea of good and evil and must choose to follow the good and fight evil as he conceives them. That would be enough to make the world a better place."

PROJECT COMPASSION
Now that we are in the Season of Lent, we consider those who are not as fortunate as ourselves and focus on the work of Caritas. This week we meet Dinia who lives in a village in the Philippines and struggles to feed and educate her children. Through donations in your family Project compassion box you can help her learn the skills she needs to provide a better income for her children and her neighbours. Maybe make a donation to your box at a meal each day- breakfast or dinner, thinking about those who are less likely to be sitting down to a meal.
The next opportunity to take on the ministries of the Sunday evening Mass will be Sunday 19th March at 5:45 pm. A note will come home asking for volunteers to nominate for the various ministries. The February Mass was a big success and we are well on our way towards developing stronger links between the school and our Parish.

Social Justice Team

Last Tuesday, the Social Justice team went to the Project Compassion launch at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Social Justice team as well as many other schools in the Diocese learnt about Project Compassion and how it works. After the liturgy, all the children and adults got to go and have a refreshing beverage and a pancake with ice cream. Yum!

Ollie Raymond

Vickie Pettett – Religious Coordinator

Positive Behaviour Support

For the next two weeks we will focus on “Encouraging Others” as a way to demonstrate RESPECT. Human nature can be very competitive and at times the desire to win or be the best can overshadow being a team player or seeing value in the ideas and/or talents of others. When we encourage others we look for ways to build the confidence and self-worth of others as we all need to remember our skills and talents are very different but equally important and valuable. Encouraging others can take many forms such as:

- a pat on the back
- a smile and saying “great effort” when others have tried their best
- cheering friends on in a social or competitive game
- listening to the ideas of others and pointing out creative or thought provoking ideas

We would like to congratulate the students that received the School Spirit Award in their grade or stage assembly last week for displaying RESPECT by being obedient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT by displaying obedience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sofia Delaney &amp; Nina Diaz (KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neelke Bremmer &amp; Nixen Johnson (1C)</td>
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<td>Jack Ladmore &amp; Grace Montgomery (2A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myah Faugeras &amp; Andy Palmer (3K)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Eggleton &amp; Paxton Rasser (4C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Jomon &amp; Imogen Reynolds (5B)</td>
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<td>Grace Golledge, Elijah Ison &amp; Sophia Majdandzic (6J)</td>
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Mathletics

A reminder to all kindergarten parents to return the Mathletics note and payment by this Friday 10 March if you’d like your child to have access to Mathletics.

Kaylene Maretich - Primary Coordinator

ICIS Assessments: Grades 3-6

Each year St Therese’s offers its students an opportunity to participate in the University of NSW ICAS assessments in the areas of: digital technologies, science, writing, spelling, english and mathematics. A note was sent home last week with the assessment dates and fees involved. Please note that these assessments are based on a general knowledge of the subject area and are not necessarily aligned with what your child will be learning in class at that given time. Nor will the assessment be used by your child’s teacher to monitor academic performance. If you are keen for your child to complete the assessment(s) please return the form to the office with your payment before Friday 31st March, as this is the cut-off date required by the UNSW. Thank you!
"Supa Thinkin" is a thinking style that is based on optimism and a "can do" attitude. It is a positive and proactive approach to finding a solution to whatever BUMP occurs during the journey along the Highway. Supa Thinkin is a TOOL in itself, as it enables both an attitude - and the process - of being solution focussed in dealing with challenges. The opposite of Supa Thinkin is "Stinkin Thinkin" - a negative appraisal that highlights difficulties and diminishes solutions. It can be both a BUMP and a HAZARD. Practise turning your Stinkin Thinkin into Supa Thinkin today!

Julia Briggs  Primary Coordinator

Good 4 Kids
Last week or early this week your child should have been given a consent form from NSW Health explaining that St. Therese's was going to participate in a data collection day. The data collected will then be used to improve student health and physical movement within the school day. All children's names will be confidential. Each child at school will need their own form, so if you have more than 1 student at St. Therese's you will need to fill in one form for each of your children. Please complete these consent forms and send them back to your child's classroom teacher asap. The cut-off date is the 9th March. Thank you for your help with this wonderful program that is aimed to keep our children healthy.

Rugby League Training
Junior Boys will train this week at 2:30pm - Wednesday
Senior Boys will train this week at 2.00pm - Friday
All players need to hand in the signed note from parents making them aware that you will be tackling. Please see me if you need one. Players must train in head gear, mouth guards and football boots.
Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help the teams.

Touch Football
Trials for the Touch Football Regional trials will be on Thursday the 9th at 8:30 am (St.Therese's back oval). Children who play the game can attend or those who have had extensive experience in the sport in the past. I have a list of names already please see me if you wish to attend and have not yet let me know.

X- Country
The school cross country will be held at Regent Park on the 29th March, Week 10. If parents are willing to help on the day please fill in the permission slip that the students will receive later in the week.

Rugby League Trials
The Central Rugby League Trials were held last Wednesday at St Pius X Ovals. The boys all performed well with a true sense of sportsmanship. The following boys have gained selection to represent the Central Region at the Diocesan Trials to be held on 14th March at Hudson Park Adamstown. The Open's Convenor is Luke Moore and the Under 11 Convenor is Jane Dengate. The cost to be paid to the school is $10. The children involved have been given information for both Under 11's and Open's boys.
OPENS:
Jack Duffield- Fullback/half ( New Lambton)
Lawson Dooley- Centre ( New Lambton)
UNDER 11'S:
Jacob Manak- 5/8 ( New Lambton)
Ethan Zander- Centre ( New Lambton)

NSW Nippers Age Championships
Congratulations to Sullivan O'Sheades who came 7th in the 10yr boys swim. He competed against 150 other swimmers to achieve such a great position. Well done Sully, we are all very proud of you.

New Lambton Football Club
Vacancies for Season 2017
Under 6 Boys - CLOSED - NO VACANCIES, Under 6 Girls – 5 spaces remaining
Under 7 Boys - 5 Spaces Remaining Under 7 Girls - CLOSED - NO VACANCIES
Under 8 Boys - 6 Spaces Remaining Under 8 Girls - 6 Spaces Remaining
Under 9 Boys - 5 Spaces Remaining Under 9 Girls - CLOSED - NO VACANCIES
Under 10 Boys - 8 Spaces Remaining Under 10 Girls - 10 Spaces Remaining
Under 11 Boys - 7 Spaces Remaining Under 11 Girls - CLOSED - NO VACANCIES
Phone John Gow – Registrar 0419 716 616 for enquiries

Deb Petersen - Primary Coordinator
Harmony Day March 21st
This year we will celebrate Harmony Day on Tuesday, March 21.

The Harmony theme of "Everyone Belongs" is more important for our children than ever before. We are blessed to live in a country that enjoys such rich, yet diverse traditions due to our multicultural heritage. It is a day to celebrate our differences; while also acknowledging that we all seek the same for ourselves and our loved ones. In celebrating this day, children are invited to wear something orange. Please do not feel you must purchase something special - orange socks or an orange hair tie is enough. During the day the students will be discussing the relevance of Harmony Day for us personally; as well as being involved in a Harmony Assembly at 2:30 pm that afternoon. We hope you can join us for the assembly.

Yours in Harmony,

Maree Adams - EAL/D Teacher

Bus Opal Cards
If your child has an Opal card from last year, they are to continue to use the same card this year. If your child has moved from Infants to Primary, you will need to apply for a new card. To apply for a new card or replacement if you have lost last years card, go to https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/.

Vicki McSpadden – School Bursar

P&F Annual General Meeting
This Tuesday is our P&F Annual General Meeting at 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to join us and elect new committee members, or volunteer for a committee position themselves. All committee positions are open to anyone who wishes to volunteer, and it’s a rewarding way to support our school community throughout the year.

In addition to electing our 2017 committee, we will be awarding two of our previous P&F members with a Lifetime Membership to the P&F, to recognise the outstanding support, commitment and hard work they have put in to the P&F over the years - Robert Redpath and Deanne March.

We hope you will join us all in welcoming Robert and Deanne as lifetime members next Tuesday night, and have your say on the P&F committee for the following year.

Jo Kim – P&F Secretary

Canteen News
It’s been a busy start to the year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers (past and new) who have generously given their time to support our school community. It’s a great way to be involved in your child’s school life and any new volunteers would be warmly welcomed. If you would like to join the roster, please contact Belinda on 0447 509 968. Fridays are online orders only at the canteen. Any paper bag orders will be offered a Vegemite sandwich.

Dinner’s Ready
Freshly prepared meals for you to take home when you pick up the kids. Pick up from the YMCA or the canteen. See www.fourpeppermints.com.au for our menu. Order via Flexischools or at the canteen. Orders close 1pm the day prior to pickup.

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<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Daly</td>
<td>Marina Sheppard</td>
<td>Sheree Rowney</td>
<td>Amy Hilton</td>
<td>Natalie Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqui Osborn</td>
<td>Laura Street</td>
<td>Lisa O’Donoghue</td>
<td>Margaret Hadley</td>
<td>Amanda Holt-Sharp</td>
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<td>Amanda Smerekanycz</td>
<td>Sally Trevilt</td>
<td>Annette Morrissey</td>
<td>Sarah Hughes</td>
<td>Helen Shah</td>
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<td>Amy Gibson</td>
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<td>Megan Storey</td>
<td>Jenni Trummel</td>
<td>Tara Clynick</td>
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Playgroup – 10th March
Come along and join us at playgroup in the school hall this Friday 10th March from 9.15am - 11am. 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.
Dear Parents/Carers,

Children have had yet another wonderful week at the Y, enjoying loads of construction craft and activities, handball and ping pong challenges, active outdoor play and much more. Lucan, Dekota and Lexi used a range of recycled items to create a prototype of their ideal OSHC. The end result was amazing! Jayden had a wonderful time independently building his very own cubby house out of blankets and plastic rods whilst many others enjoyed fine turning their sewing skills when our fabulous staff member, Anne, brought in a large bag of foam. Children created pillows, stuffed toys, stress balls and more, showing their work off proudly to staff and parents. Next week children will continue with their crafty creations during our “Craft Bonanza”.

I would like to say a very special thank you to the following families and businesses for kindly donating items to our centre. Their very generous contributions are very much appreciated by YMCA staff and children and assist greatly in our efforts to create the ideal OSHC environment for all our children.

The Evan’s Family (Kylie, Lucan and Milla) for the wonderful (extra large) doll house. Our children will love this!
Cam McPhail Building for kindly supplying some timber for an additional hen shelter.
Computer Systems Australia and the Bosworth Family for kindly donating a number of computers and setting them up.
Alex Jones and his mother Simone Biddlecomb, for generously donating books, DVDs and games for the Wii.

Kind regards,
Kylie Nadalin - Coordinator
YMCA NSW – Newcastle Region I St Thereses Primary School,
New Lambton NSW 2305
m 0402165617
e oshc.newlambton@ymcansw.org.au w ymcansw.org.au

Easter Raffle and Out of Uniform
The response to the Out of Uniform easter egg donation was a huge success with an overwhelming number of eggs, rabbits and other chockie delights being donated. What a generous community we have! Information regarding the “wrapping day” will be sent out via an Alert closer to the date. The raffles will be drawn on Thursday 6th April.

Fundraising committee