Dear Parents & Carers,

As this is the final Newsletter for 2018 I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of staff, the children and myself. Its been a hectic year but at the same time a rewarding one. This was very apparent last Wednesday evening at the Year 6 Graduation Liturgy and Awards Ceremony.

As you would be aware a building programme will commence early next year and I ask for your patience and support during this disruptive time. All care will be taken to ensure the safety of the children and visitors to the site during this period and I ask you to adhere to any new procedures as they arise.

I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a safe holiday period particularly if you and your family are travelling. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year, with the first day of school for Years 1-6 being 30th January and our new Kinders starting on 31st January.

Swimming Carnival
My thanks to Deb Petersen and her team who made the smooth running of the swimming carnival such a success and from what I’ve heard, a very fun day. Thank you also to the parents who volunteered on the day.

P & F
Another outstanding year of fundraising by this dedicated group of parents without whom the children would not have the many resources that are available to them. Thank you and I look forward to working with you again in 2019.

End of Year Mass & Assembly
Mass will be at 9.30am Tuesday 18th December in the church.

Assembly and Prize Giving will be held Wednesday 19th December commencing at 9.30am in the Main Hall. The 2019 School Leaders will be presented and our Kinder children will present a short Nativity Play.

I invite you all to join with the wider Parish to celebrate the Christmas season by attending Mass (times set out at back of Newsletter)

Duilio Rufo  Principal

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Christmas Carols
Please join us this Friday 14 December from 6:00 pm for Christmas Carols. Each grade will perform a few songs from “Motown”, between each performance we will have some Christmas favourites for everyone to join in. Bring along a picnic, blankets, chairs and mozzie repellent. There will be some treats and glow sticks to buy from Belinda and the P&F. I’d like to thank Mrs Alina Brymora, all the teachers and students for their time and effort in making what I'm sure will be a wonderful community event.

Reports
Semester 2 reports will go out via Compass on Friday afternoon. The format is PDF, which will make it very easy to share with family via email. If you do not have access to the internet please let me know by Wednesday 12 December so an alternate can be arranged. On Friday you will also receive an envelope which will inform you of your child/ren's class for 2019. The teachers have spent a number of weeks discussing the placement of students in their classes, considering aspects such as academic, social and behavioural considerations. Initially some children may be upset they are not with their "best friend", however, this can often be positive for your child as they learn to meet with new people and build their friendship circle. Also all the teachers on each grade work very closely to ensure consistency across the grades. Moving from a familiar class to a new class with new teachers and peers can make some children nervous. Staying positive and working with your child's teacher will help your child to be resilient and confident young person.

End of Year Events

End of Year Liturgy
Please join us on Tuesday 18 December from 9:30 am in the Main Hall to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year. We will have a whole school liturgy which will be celebrated by Father Stephen Hill. We warmly welcome all parents, siblings, grandparents and friends to join us.

Awards Presentation
Wednesday 19 December is our Awards Presentation for morning Years K - 5, from 9:30 am in the Main Hall. This will be followed by the Kindergarten Nativity Play to conclude our 2018 school year. All are welcome to attend.

Year 6 Clap Out
Our students in Years K-5 will form an arch under the COLA as we farewell our fabulous Year 6 students as they begin the next exciting journey into High School. Please join us from 2:45 pm.

Wednesday 19 December is our final day for students

I would like to thank all the parents and families and especially our wonderful students for an excellent 2018. As I look back on the school year, I remember so many laughs, memorable moments, acts of kindness and even times of sadness. But all these emotions and experiences make our lives what they are and they are all equally important in order for us to live full and rich lives. I’m often asked why I am a teacher and my answer is always the same - even though there can be lots of stress and marking, it is the most rewarding job! Every day I am surprised by your beautiful children and through them I see the richness in our school community. So I wish you all a very safe and faith-filled Christmas. To our families who leave our school at the end of this year, I wish the best for all of you and for those families that will be back in 2019, I look forward to another amazing year. Merry Christmas!

Kaylene Marettich – Assistant Principal

RE News
Pope Francis @ pontifex
"Advent is the time to recognise the that emptiness needs to be filled in our lives, a time to smooth the rough edges of pride, and make room for Jesus who comes."

SACRAMENTAL NEWS
What a beautiful evening last Tuesday, when many of our families came along with their children for the Liturgy of Reconciliation. Thank you for the work with your children, who were so excited, but reverent and prayerful. It was a wonderful way to complete the preparation for the Sacrament.

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.
MISSION DAY
Thank you Year 6 teachers and students for your organisation and running of our Mission Day. The children had a happy fun day- lots of exciting things to try and heaps of yummy goodies! Over $2,600 was raised to support St John's Catholic School in Mynamar.

SUNDAY MASS
Our final Parish Mass for 2018 will be this Sunday at 9:15 am. Please return the note sent out and email a response if your child/ family would like to participate in the Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS MASS
A note was sent home last week asking for children to volunteer as part of the drama/ reading of the gospel at the 5:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please return your note or let us know if you can help.

Vicki Pettett Religious Coordinator

School Community News
The last day for lunch orders is Tuesday 18th Dec. The canteen will be open Wednesday 19th Dec but for ice blocks only. No lunches will be made this day.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped in the canteen this year. We couldn't have done it without you and your kids love seeing you in the school. Have a great Christmas break and we'll do it all again in 2019.

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Belinda Palmer Supervisor

School Fees
Statements have been sent home with your child in regard to school fees. Thank you to all who are up to date. For those with fees outstanding your prompt attention to these would be appreciated. If you are having difficulties please contact the office to speak or make an appointment with Mr Rufo on 4957 4922.

Vicki McSpadden Bursar

P & F Meeting December
The P & F are having the final meeting of the year at Asian Delight, Merewether on Tuesday 11 December. If you would like to attend please RSVP to helenlmshah@gmail.com ASAP. New families welcome.

Family Discount Form
Thank you to the families that have already returned their 2019 Family Discount & Diocesan Pastoral Contribution Form.
If you have not done so, please return to the front office ASAP. You will find a copy on the School website.

School Bag for sale
A school backpack is for sale, never been used $20. If you are interested please call Joanne on 0404 719 101.
Playgroup Friday 14th December
Playgroup will be on in the school hall this Friday 14th December. This will be the last playgroup for 2018 and the children will have fun making some Christmas themed craft. So come along and join us 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.

News from the Classroom
Stage 3 Dance Concert
On Friday 14th December, you are invited to the hall at 2:30pm to watch the Stage 3 Dance Concert. The children have been participating in Dance lessons for sport each week and would like to show you what they have learnt. Parents, Grandparents and friends are welcome!

Stage 3 Teachers
Festive Fun in Year 5

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.
Gifted Education
Families may be interested in these workshops over the Christmas holidays. Registrations for the January 2019 GERRIC Student Programs open in THREE DAYS! Set a reminder to register from 7am on Monday (3rd December) and bookmark https://january2019studentprograms.eventbrite.com.au to secure a place in your preferred workshop. Remember, this time around it is first-come first-served, so you will know immediately if you have a place in your preferred workshop.

Program Dates: Monday 21st - Wednesday 23rd January, 2019
Daily times: 8:45am - 3:30pm
Venue: Various rooms at UNSW Kensington Campus
Cost: $365 per child (some workshops vary)

Deb Petersen

SPORT
Pool Party
Last week we missed out printing Lachlan G from Year 5 who was also one of the talented writers who were part of the team who won the NCC sponsored Pool Party at New Lambton. Thank you again to Julia D, Lachlan G, Hayden M and Emily G – well done!

Swimming Carnival
What a fun way to begin wrapping up our 2018 school year with our school Swimming Carnival! Thank you to all the students who entered a race, cheered on their house colour mates and helped their wonderful school out. I was so impressed by the number of children who simply ‘gave it a go’, we had more swimmers than in past years enter a race and it made the day so enjoyable. Congratulations to our 2019 House Captains, you lead your teams beautifully. A huge thank you to our volunteer parents who made the day run smoothly, from our whole school community, THANKYOU!

Mrs Murdoch's idea of an inflatable boat race with our teachers, students and parents was a hit! I have seen some video footage and the determination of our parents was very impressive. As teachers we will work on some new tactics for the 2019 carnival and come back to take the title from our "Parents" who surprisingly won (joking... well done guys) and well done to the students who participated also in this event.

The results from our 2018 Swimming carnival are;
Junior Boy Champion - Nate Brownlee       Junior Girl Champion - Lucinda McNabb
11 yr Boy Champion - Noah Giles           11 yr Girl Champion - Layne Brownlee
Senior Boy Champion - Mostyn Bowen        Senior Girl Champion – Andie Widseth

Medals for these will be presented at next week’s Prize Giving Ceremony.

The winning House on 441 points was CASEY HOUSE – BLUE!
Tennis Diocesan Trials
My congratulations go to Anika B and William O’D who represented the school and Central Region at the Tennis trials week. Both students showed great sportsmanship.

A SPORTING THANK YOU
I wanted to say a huge thank you to every volunteer throughout the year, to all the parents who drove students to and from events and to all the staff and teachers who have offered their help and support in 2018. Sport and a healthy lifestyle are so important and I know many students appreciate the extra events and opportunities they are given throughout the year. Congratulations to all the students who have participated in trials, gala days, carnivals, PE lessons and activity days and for showing great sportsmanship. I look forward to another successful year in Sport in 2019!

 Deb Petersen Sports Coordinator

OOSH
Hello from everyone at YMCA,
Well the countdown is on for the Christmas holidays now and time is going fast. We still have some great Christmas craft to create and display in our room to make it very Christmassy for our big Christmas party on Friday 21st December. If you would like your children to join us for the party and Christmas colour fun run please go online and book a place now.

Also this week we will be making some clay creations, pet rocks and doing some free-style painting. Our new board games are proving to be popular with Monopoly, Emoji Memory and the Large Jenga being the favourites. We have also been enjoying a regular game of Bingo on Friday afternoons.
I hope you have noticed how much our sunflower plants have grown. The children have really enjoyed watching them grow from tiny seeds to the very large plants they are now. They look like they are close to flowering so look out for an explosion of yellow colour which will be sure to put a smile on everyone’s faces.

Outdoors we will be playing soccer, cricket and French cricket. The children are really enjoying the mud kitchen, sand pit and the rock pit. We have set up a new Sun Safe station on the veranda to remind the children to be sun safe and apply their sunscreen and put on a hat when going outdoors to play.

Just a reminder that VACATION CARE booking are open now online. Please go to www.ymcansw.org.au/newlambton to book a place for your child in the holidays. We have some great excursions and incursions planned including: ice skating, Niagara Sports Park, Captain Bubbles and Hip Hop Street dancing to name a few. Take a look at the complete program online and book the children in for days of fun.

Christine Morgan | Childcare Coordinator
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p 0402 165 617
e Christine.Morgan@ymcansw.org.au w https://www.ymcansw.org.au/childrens-services/
Follow us! facebook | twitter | youtube | instagram

YMCA NSW acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands we work upon and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and
Holy Trinity Parish, Blackbutt North invites you to welcome the new born Christ

24th December
- St John the Evangelist, Lambton
  5.00pm: Carols
  5.30pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas
- St Therese’s, New Lambton
  5.00pm: Carols
  5.30pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas
  10.00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas

25th December
- Corpus Christi, Waratah
  Midnight: Midnight Mass of Christmas
  7.30am: Mass of Christmas Day
- St Therese’s, New Lambton
  9.15am: Mass of Christmas Day
- St John the Evangelist, Lambton
  9.30am: Mass of Christmas Day (Ordinarium)

ST THERESE’S P&F
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
14th December 6pm
St Therese's Playground

BYO Chairs and Blankets
Candles/Glow sticks for sale
Christmas yummies for sale

Gold coin donation for entry

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at St Therese’s.