Newsletter

Think, Grow, Shine.

25th February 2020 | TERM 1• WEEK 5







Principals Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning Focus 2020 to 2022- Clarity by Lyn Sharratt

Over the next three years the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle is focusing all schools in the area of contemporary learning and the effective use of data. A significant amount of money will be ear-marked to ensure that all staff are professionally developed in these areas.

The Diocese has engaged Lyn Sharratt, an educationalist from Canada to work with schools. All Principals, Staff and Catholic Schools personnel will be in-serviced by Lyn using her book Clarity, and all schools in the Diocese will engage in this project. Lyn has worked throughout Canada, as well as in South Australia and the Paramatta Diocese to significantly improve student growth.

In addition, schools have employed Pedagogical Mentors who will become mentors for other staff. Janine Schneider, Angela Schneider and Therese Jackman have been appointed as Pedagogy Mentors here at St Therese's for the whole project. In Term 1 they will receive professional development on this role and how-to best work with staff to improve outcomes for our students.

Our learning focus in this first year is on Writing – all aspects of this very important skill will be a focus; spelling, grammar, punctuation, and structure. As the year unfolds, I will keep you informed as to how things are going.

Parking

Once again I am compelled to write to the parent body to make you aware of the parking restrictions around the school grounds. These are all clearly signposted and are there for your information. Ignoring these places our children at risk and yourselves vulnerable for a large fine. It is also disappointing to me that the disregard shown for our neighbours' rights and is so discourteous. Please obey the rules!

Fundraiser for WIRES

Our Year 4 students have been very concerned about the effects of the recent bushfires have had on Australian Wildlife. At our Term 1 Mission Day on Thursday 2 April, we ask all students to wear an item of clothing that is inspired by nature e.g. clothing with leaves or a floral print etc. All students are asked to donate a gold coin to be out of uniform and all this money will be sent to WIRES Australian Wildlife Rescue Organisation and Caritas.

Duilio Rufo

 $Principal_{To\ bring\ Christ\ and\ His\ message,\ in\ all\ its\ richness,\ into\ the\ hearts\ and\ lives\ of\ all.$

Dates to Remember

25TH FEB SHROVE TUESDAY

26TH FEB ASH WEDNESDAY

27TH FEB DIO SWIMMING

1ST MAR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

3RD MAR P&F MEETING 7PM

12TH MAR DIO CRICKET TRIALS

17TH MAR REGIONAL TOUCH FOOTBALL TRIALS

20TH MAR ANTI BULLYING DAY & HARMONY DAY

24TH MAR WINTER SPORTS TRIALS

26TH MAR TOUR DE CURE

27TH MAR SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

2 APR MISSION DAY TERM 1

9 APR HOLY THURSDAY

LAST DAY OF TERM 1



Assistant Principal's Message

Building Update

Currently the Fr Walsh and Mother Cyril Halls are having their foundations underpinned and the area underneath is being mines grouted. The aim is to lay the new concrete pad under this area in the next two-weeks, however this is subject to mines grouting being completed in the expected time period. However, as we know, mines grouting is an unknown aspect so we will keep you up to date. Once the foundations have been completed, the building of new school canteen will start where the wooden stairs were at the back of the Mother Cyril Hall. This canteen will be large enough to accommodate the needs of our school. Stage 2 also includes the building of a new learning space, which will house the library and three general purpose learning rooms. At this stage, this is expected to be completed towards the end of July, as long as we have little rain interruption.

Wellbeing Week

In Week 6 of each term, we have Wellbeing Week to stop, recharge and reconnect with each other. During Wellbeing Week, teachers do not set homework as we encourage families to spend time together playing games, going for walks and turning off devices. During Wellbeing Week, we also have some fun activities as follows:

- Music Monday we play music at lunch and recess
- Thumbs Up Tuesday greet people with a "thumbs up" to bring happiness to those we meet
- Wacky Wednesday full school uniform is to be worn, but students are invited to wear something wacky e.g. colourful socks, a crazy hairstyle etc.
- Thankful Thursday say thank you for all the big or small things that others do for us
- Forgiveness Friday truly forgive someone that may have caused us pain. In forgiving others, we feel an inner peace ourselves. As we enter Lent this is so important, as Jesus showed us how to forgive no matter what!

Our student leaders will also have some fun activities organised during lunch and recess. As Week 6 is also the interview week, the teachers will either have Week 6 or 7 as no homework week.

Flexible Groupings

We have started flexible groups in areas such as Mathematics, writing, spelling and comprehension, depending on student needs in each grade. Children have been placed in flexible groups following a wide variety of assessments such as Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT), InitiaLit and pre-tests in writing, spelling and comprehension. These groups are *fluid* which means that children can move from one group to another depending on how they are going. The skills and content being covered in each group are the same across the grade, what is varied is; the speed students are expected to work at, the complexity of the tasks given, and the level of individual vs assisted work children engage in. Parents often speak to teachers of their child "going up" to the next group, but we need to shift our thinking instead to wanting all our children to work in the group that best suits their needs. All our teachers work as a collaborative team to analyse data and plan effective strategies and I have the upmost respect for all our teachers.

Space Availability

The decommissioning of the two smaller halls to complete construction, has affected the spaces we have available in the school. Added to this, St Nicholas' OOSH, which provides before and after school care to a large percentage of our student population, as we and other schools in the area, has grown significantly. St Nicholas will use the main hall on most days, as the demountable is too small to provide adequate space for catering and providing activities to the 100+ children that attend OOSH each day. We are working with many different providers such as; Mrs Brymora's Musical Theatre Group, our School Band, Chess, Drama Club, language teachers and music teachers, to come to a workable solution. We ask for your patience and understanding over the next few weeks.

Office of Safeguarding

Digital technologies and social media have allowed us to connect with the world like never before. We can now keep in touch with relatives and friends across the globe, remote communities can engage in educational opportunities where they can talk face-to-face with their teachers and classmates and amazing medical and technological advances are being made as geographically distant individuals can share ideas. Over the weekend I was reading that doctors across the globe were sharing data from trials and conferencing with each other in the hope of finding a cure for coronavirus. This is being facilitated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) using platforms such as Zoom and Skype so that doctors and researchers can communicate in real-time with each other. We need to teach our children



how to use technology and social media effectively and ensure we allow them to only use age-appropriate platforms. Since the beginning of school, a growing number of students have come to school with watches that can take pictures and upload them to the internet as well as being able to communicate with others. Children will not be permitted to wear these to school, as they are too expensive, and they can be used violate the privacy of their peers. Additionally, as I advised last week all communication during the school day, is to be done via the school office.

Kaylene Maretich Assistant Principal/Acting Principal

RE News

Parish Mass

Thank you to those families who were able to attend Sunday Mass. It was a wonderful Eucharistic celebration, with many of our children participating in important roles such as Readers, Altar Servers, Prayers' of the Faithful, Presentation of the Gifts, Welcomers and singing in the choir. The following children undertook these roles:

Jack P, Elizabeth W, Ayla D, Beau P, Gabriel W, Oskar M, Matisse M, Ethan T, Myles N. and Lucas M.

Thank you to all the other staff, students and families who attended in community support.

RCIA – Normally the RCIA program is for adults who wish to become Catholics, however, Mark Horton from the St Therese's parish has asked if there are any families who wish for their children to become initiated into the Catholic faith. If you think this is something you would like for your child, please let me know as Mark is going to commence a child-friendly RCIA program for such students in the near future.

Important RE dates:

- Whole school prayer & liturgy (weekly at Monday assemblies, 2:30pm)
- Shrove Tuesday 25th February
- Launch of Caritas (Project Compassion) & Catholic Schools Week 25th February, Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral 10:30am (School Leaders to attend with Mr Smith).
- Ash Wednesday 26th February (Lenten Season begins)
- Catholic Schools Week 1st 7th March (Week 6)

Luke Smith

Religious Coordinator

This week in profile:

Hello to all the families and students of St Therese's.

My name is Alex Toscano and this is my first year here at this wonderful school. I am fortunate enough to be teaching Kindergarten this year and have been loving every minute of it. We have taken on a Play Based approach through the Successful Foundations program and it has been the best experience not only for myself, but to see the beautiful Kindergarteners experiment, create and imagine their way through play.

This is my fourth year teaching and I have previously taught at St John the Baptist Maitland and St Francis Xavier's Belmont. I have also completed my Undergraduate degree in a Bachelor of Communication with a double major of Journalism and Public Relations. I worked at a Wedding Magazine as their editorial writer for three years, I completed my Masters in Primary Education and I am currently studying my Masters of Special and Inclusive Education.

Not only that, I am a qualified Personal Trainer, completing my Certificate 3 and 4 and Hunter TAFE. In my spare time I am also a Dance Teacher at Physical Funk Dance

Academy, which I absolutely have a love and passion for dance and the creative arts.



I am looking forward to a big, exciting and fun filled year here at St Therese's and all the milestones myself and my KW class will reach by the end of 2020. Have the best year.

Alex Toscano

Extra Curricula Activities

Dear Parents – please note the locations for the following activities

Monday: Chess 8-9am Learning Centre (old Library)

Tuesday: Band 8-1.30pm Main Hall

Wednesday: Musical Theatre 8.20am 3L classroom

Thursday: O'Grady Drama 7.45-8.45am Learning Centre (old Library

Spanish Language 8.15-9am Admin Office

News from the Classroom

Word of the Week

At St Therese's we acknowledge the important role vocabulary plays in reading and writing success. Children need to understand words so they can make sense of what they read. They also need to know and use a broad range of words to make meaning clear in their writing across all subject areas.

Children are good at learning words, but they need help. In school we do a lot to develop students' vocabulary, but you can also help with this at home following these three principles:

- **Have fun with words**. Regularly play words games to build an interest in words but to also strengthen your child's word learning skills.
- It's about talking as much as reading and writing. Children learn words best if they hear them as well as read them, so talk about words as well as thinking about reading. But of course, keep encouraging reading!
- When talking about words use comments more than questions. Use the words in sentences and try not to say "What does that mean?" as your child needs to hear that word lots of times first before s/he can define it. Instead you might say "I really like the word rotund. Santa Claus is rotund and he is very round. Can you see something else that is rotund?"

We will be sending words home weekly through COMPASS for you and your child to talk and learn about, as well as giving you ideas for word games. If you have any questions about how to support your child's word learning, then please speak to myself or your child's class teacher.

If your family speak an additional language at home, it would be really beneficial to incorporate the word in both languages during conversations and games.

Happy Talking!

Maree Adams
EAL/D Teacher

School Community News

Plavaroup

Everyone welcome to join us at Playgroup on Friday mornings from 9.15-11.15am, cost \$3 per family. We take turns bringing morning tea to share. All you need to bring is snacks and a drink for your child. If you have any questions or need further information, call or message Jo on 0439 435 287 jo.kim@outlook.com.

<u>Canteen</u>

The canteen now offers gluten free sandwiches & wraps. This is available through Flexischools under the 'Make-Your-Own' option.

Belinda Palmer Canteen Supervisor

School Fees

Term 1 school fees have now been sent home. If you are having financial difficulties, please contact the school on 49574922 to arrange an appointment with Mrs Maretich. If you would like help setting up a regular payment please phone 49 574 922 or call into our office.

Vicki McSpadden Bursar



PBS

School Spirit Awards

Our focus last week was demonstrating **RESPECT** by displaying wonderful Manners. Well done to the following students who received this award. Thank you! Your manners are beautiful and you are an asset to our school!

School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT								
by displaying wonderful <i>Manners</i> .								
KN	Amelia S	KW	Eliza B	KL	Jackson F			
	Bella A		Roman A		Ayla P			
1N	Francesca R	1W	Tayla A	1L	Ayla W			
	Brodie L		Violet H		Chase M			
2N	Zoey D	2W	Kyanna M	2L	Eden H			
	Brock H		Luke R	ZL	Bruno R			
3N	Nicholas B	3W	Archie D	3L	Olivia M			
	Emily F		Lola C		Sophie M			
4N	Dominic P	4W	Toby E	4L	Emily C			
	Lucy A		Xavier R		Edward R			
5N	Sarah R	5W	Beau P	5L	Archie W			
	Felicity R		Model T		Christina S			
6N	Samirah A	6W	Delaney T	6L	Riley M			
	Jayden S		Milla E		Matilda C			

We will continue our focus on demonstrating **RESPECT** by displaying wonderful Manners this week.

Tour de Cure

Tour de Cure is a cycling cancer foundation committed to finding a cure for cancer. One of the major parts of their work is calling in to local schools and delivering their 25 minute 'Be Fit – Be Healthy – Be Happy' presentation. This presentation is free, interactive and fun for all students.

Todd Coulthard, father of Lachlan (2L) & Cooper (5N), is one of the cyclists.

We are excited to announce that St Therese's has been selected as the local school the cycling team will visit during their 2020 Signature Tour where they will ride from Newcastle to Noosa! This visit will take place on the morning of **Thursday 26th March** at **9:30am** in the main school hall. Students will have the opportunity to cheer the cyclists on as they ride into our school and will then listen to the presentation. All students will also receive some free merchandise. Thank you to Todd and all of the cyclists for giving our school this wonderful opportunity!

Janine Schneider Coordinator

Environmental Message

Eco friendly lunch

By reducing waste every lunch, we can all positively help the Earth.

- Don't buy individually wrapped food buy in bulk
- Fruit has its own environmentally friendly packaging (skin)
- Metal lunch boxes will last (label with name)
- Bees Wax lunch wraps are Earth friendly and can be made at home



Sport

Winter Sport Trials

Congratulations to all the students who trialled at the Winter Sport Trials last Friday at various locations in Newcastle. Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent our Diocese later in the term.

Rugby League - 11Yrs - Max T, Pat D, Sonny D. Open's -Jack P, Liam W, Cooper R, Patrick D Netball - Ella T and Ava R Soccer - Pip A, Felix D, William G, Jake R & Taj R

A big thankyou goes to Mrs Leanne Kepreotes for organising and running the Regional Netball Trial for all central schools and to Mr Moore and Mr Hartcher for helping with Rugby League and Soccer selections.

Diocesan Tennis Trials

Congratulations to Anika B in grade 6 who travelled to Lismore last week to participate in the Diocesan Tennis trials. This is a competitive event and as a school community we are all very proud of Anika's achievement.

Deb Petersen Coordinator/Acting Assistant Principal



ST NICHOLAS OOSH

Hello from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton,

What a busy start to the term we have had at OOSH. We have 36 kindergarten children from St Therese's attending OOSH on a regular basis and they are all settling in very nicely with the help of some of our older children. We are using our space at the hall on a regular basis each morning due to the large number of children now attending. At the hall children are participating in large group games or playing quieter games in smaller groups. This new routine will continue to take place each morning between 8.15 and 9.00am.

In after school care the children have been enjoying yummy afternoon teas, pasta with sauce and potato gems being the favourites last week.

Keep an eye out for the vacation care program that will be coming out next week. A big thank you to Michelle for organising another fantastic program for the children to enjoy. Have a great week...

CHRISTINE MORGAN

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR - OOSH | ST NICHOLAS OOSH | PO Box 775 Newcastle NSW 2300 **Email** <u>christine.morgan@stnicholasoosh.org.au</u> **Visit us online** <u>www.stnicholasoosh.org.au</u>



Music Groups at St Therese's

Our students have had a great musical start to the year. Exposure to music and musical learning is a valuable experience not only for children, but for adults too. Studies have consistently shown the benefits that music has on the development of the human brain, especially in young people.

I've attached a link to some general information regarding the benefits of music and music education. I encourage you to have a read, and think about the ways you might be able to foster a love of music in your own household.

https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/musical-benefits

We have created extra opportunities for our students to engage in musical groups at our school. Please take a look at the following options offered at St. Therese's, discuss these with you children and please let us know if your child would like to participate.

Musical Theatre Group

We would like to invite students from Years 3-6 to be a part of our Musical Theatre Group (MTG). MTG was established last year to promote the performing arts within our school, and to give our students an opportunity to share their talents in the community. Our performance group will be working towards performing at a variety of school occasions throughout the year.

Rehearsals will be held every **Wednesday morning at 8.20am in the 3L classroom**. Rehearsals will be 40 minutes in length and will begin in **Week 6 (Wednesday 4th March).**

We hope to establish a troupe of around 30 students. We enjoyed great success last year with performances at assembly and the "Australian Made" concert. I encourage you to discuss and promote this with your children. The performing arts are a wonderful and positive outlet for many of our children.

Year 6 Rock Band Information

There are many students in Year 6 who possess a great talent and competent skill level in playing a musical instrument. We would like to offer these students an opportunity to be part of a school rock band. Some students have already registered their interest in this project which will run during Terms 1 and 2. The aim of this project will be to learn a selection of songs as an ensemble to perform at upcoming school events. Students who would like to join the band should have some level of experience in one of the following fields: keyboard/piano, guitar, bass guitar, vocals, drums, and dance/movement. Some students may not have lessons/experience in the areas listed here, but they may have a great interest in the performing arts and a great attitude to learning. Please encourage them to come and see me if they would like to be a part of this project.

Rehearsals will be held every **Tuesday during recess at 2.30pm in the 6L classroom**. Rehearsals will be 25 minutes long and will begin in **Week 5 (Tuesday 25th February)**.

If your child is interested in joining MTG and/or the rock band, could I please ask you to email me with the following details:

Child's Name Child's Class Parent Name

My email address is: alina.brymora@mn.catholic.edu.au

Please note: There are times when children will not be able to attend rock band and MTG due to representative events such as sport or illness. However, we do ask that once your child commits, they attend each week as we will work to build not only individual student skills, but also the skills of the groups as a whole.



Infants Creative Arts Play Club Information

As the building project continues throughout the school, we would like to offer our students another avenue to engage in play off the playground.

Students in the infants school will have an opportunity to play music/drama/dance games **every Thursday at recess in the 2L classroom**. This is a casual group that does not require students to attend every week. It is just an avenue for our younger students to play in a performing arts environment.

We look forward to sharing our musical successes with you throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Alina Brymora Music Teacher





For any further questions or to establish your collection operation, Please contact

JOHN SANDY DARA PROJECT LIASION OFFICER - 0428 822 526 CATHERINE MCCARTHY DARA VOLUNTEER - 0414 714 836

A VULUNIEEK - 0414 /14 836

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DARA.ORG.AU





St Therese's Catholic Primary School, New Lambton

Burke Street PO Box 321 New Lambton NSW 2305 Telephone: (02) 4957 4922 Fax: (02) 4952 1637

Website: newlmbtn.mn.catholic.edu.au Email: admin@newlmbtn.mn.catholic.edu.au

Dear Parents/caregivers,

There have been some Federal Government and Catholic Schools Office (CSO) changes to our Students with Disabilities funding scheme.

All schools have now transitioned from Students with Disabilities (SWD) funding to the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). The new data collection model has resulted in a broader range of disabilities being included in our data collection including, but not limited to, Specific Learning Disabilities (Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia), Mild to Moderate Language Disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ ADHD) and a range of Chronic Illnesses.

The new broader definition of disability has resulted in a significant increase in the number of students meeting the criteria for disability support. As a result changes have been made to the way in which schools meet with parents to collaborate and set goals for students with additional needs.

From this point forward formal Personalised Planning (PP) meetings will only be held for children requiring support at a Substantial or Extensive level. Students requiring a Supplementary level of support will have their individual needs addressed through the following channels:

- Parent Teacher Meetings (Learning Support Teacher may be present at Teacher/ Parent request)
- Email communication between the Parent and Class Teacher, Learning Support Teacher/ School Psychologist
- Phone calls
- Meetings between the parent and Class Teacher, Learning Support Teacher/ School Psychologist on a needs basis

Many of our students that once required a PP, now fall into the Supplementary level of support. Their goals, supports and strategies will continue to be documented using the Personalised Planning tool.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's level of support, or any aspect of the new changes, please contact me at melanie.faehndrich@mn.catholic.edu.au or at school on 49574922

Duilio Rufo Melanie Faehndrich

Principal Learning Support

Coordinator





Our library shelves are very bare,
Though dear students, don't despair!
Your teachers are all here for you
To guide the way and get you through.
While our space continues to build,
Grab a book and feel all chilled...
We can pretty much guarantee
That you will love the PRC!!

That's right, even though we don't have a physical library at the moment – we will continue to run the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) again this year. The PRC is a statewide program which encourages students to read a certain amount of books with the aim to foster a love of reading for pleasure. A suggested book list provides students with the opportunity to experience quality literature.

The challenge runs from the 2nd March to 28th August 2020. Every student who completes the PRC will receive a commemorative certificate from the Premier.

K-2 children are automatically enrolled and will complete the challenge in class with their teacher and during library lessons.

Fill your house
With stacks of BOOKS,
In all the crannies
And all the NOOKS!
DR. SEUSS-

Children in Years 3-6 take ownership of their own reading. Any primary aged children wishing to complete the challenge will need to see Mrs Gleeson to be issued with their log-on details. As we do not currently have a library collection to borrow from, the children may need to borrow PRC titles from any branch of the Newcastle Library, or find titles in their own personal collection. Get the word out – perhaps there are friends or family around who might have a copy of a book which your child may like to read!

Students must read the following number of books to complete the Challenge:

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum Number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

PRC booklists, as well as all the rules and information are available at https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html. Any questions, please email me through the school email address or ask me on my teaching days — Wednesday and Thursday.

Let the reading begin ☺ Mrs Gleeson





Lee Holmes is a mum, a nutritionist, wholefoods chef and yoga teacher. Lee will be offering tips on how to Supercharge Your Kids diet and give you a helping hand when it comes to being able to create fresh, wholesome and nutrient rich meals that your children will eat again and again. She will also be sharing her top tips on how to cut down on sugar & processed food, giving you some insight into what nutrients are helpful & will show you some easy ways to sneak super foods into meals.

You'll learn what foods are good for mood and concentration, energy and performance, plus you'll discover some helpful ways to create a healthy lunchbox. WHEN:

Tuesday 10th March

WHERE:

Charlestown Multi-purpose Centre, 17 James St, Charlestown

COST:

Free, seats limited

BOOKINGS:

mullenhealth.com.au/events or call 4961 4075

www.superchargedfood.com · www.mullenhealth.com.au







Enter Now!

2020 Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions

Theme: 'Picture a World in Harmony'

Poster and Song Writing Competitions

Prizes will be awarded in two categories:

- -Senior (Year 7 Year 12); and
- -Junior (K Year 6)

Poster Competition Prizes

In each category the following prizes are awarded:

- State Winner \$500 - Regional Winner \$150 - State Winner's School \$500

Song Writing Competition Prizes

In each category the following prizes are awarded:

- First Prize \$300 - Second Prize \$150

Closing Date:

10 April 2020

Entry Forms and Competition Rules

Are available at:

www.movingforwardtogether.org.au

Prize Giving Function

Will be held at the NSW Parliament House in June 2020

Certificate of Participation

Every entrant will receive a Certificate of Participation

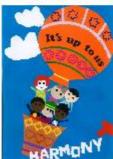
More information from:

- yona.cass@bbnsw.org.au
- Poster@movingforwardtogether.org.au
- Song@movingforwardtogether.org.au









Winning posters from 2019

