



## Acting Principals Message

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

Welcome to Week 2! The past few days have brought much needed rain, but also some flash flooding. We came to school on Monday to find a new water park in the back playground (much to the delight of the children). We are working with the Catholic Schools Office to rectify the flooding, but given the forecast that heavy rain will continue till Wednesday, this may take a little while.

## Building Works

The new learning centre is now weather tight and Artel are working on finalising the internal fit outs. Work also continues on the new student toilet blocks on either side of the learning centre as well as the new canteen area. These areas are fabulous and I know the students, teachers, parents and wider Parish community will love learning and sharing in these areas. A final completing date has not been specified, as a number of factors continue to impact on the building works, such as rain. We will also be looking at improving the drainage of water following heavy rain, which has been occurring more frequently over the past few years.

## Personalised Planning Meetings and Parent Teacher Interviews

Personalised Planning (PP) Meetings will be held in Week 3 for infant student and Week 4 for primary students. These are for children with additional needs to discuss their progress to date and plan learning goals for the next two terms. Parent Teacher (PT) meetings are for all children, to discuss their progress and goals for the remainder of the year. Please note: if your child has a PP meeting, they do not also require a PT interview. Please book in for a PP or PT via Compass. The bookings will appear above the "News Feed" in your child's profile. Please use a PC or iPad to book the interviews, rather than a mobile phones. Meetings will be held via Zoom or phone conferencing, this will be state on your booking confirmation.

- Zoom Meetings: the teacher will "admit" you into the Zoom meeting as close to your allocated time as possible
- Phone Conference: the number will state "No Caller ID" OR "Private Number"

We have not used Zoom or phone conferencing for PPs and PT meetings, so we appreciate your support for these platforms, while COVID-19 restrictions continue.

## Dates to Remember

**WEEK 3 INFANTS PERSONAL PLANNING MEETINGS**

**WEEK 4 PRIMARY PERSONAL PLANNING MEETINGS**

**WEEK 5 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS FOR TERM 3**

**4 AUG REPORTS LIVE 4PM**

**4 AUG INTERRELATE PARENT NIGHT ZOOM 6PM & 7.15PM**

**7<sup>TH</sup> AUG JEANS FOR GENES DAY**

**17<sup>TH</sup> AUG ICAS SCIENCE**

**24<sup>TH</sup> AUG DIGITAL**

**25<sup>TH</sup> AUG ENGLISH**

**31<sup>ST</sup> AUG MATHS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT SPELLING**

**28<sup>TH</sup> AUG PUPIL FREE DAY  
STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

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### **COVID Safety**

As we continue to see increases in the number of positive results, hospitalisations and unfortunately deaths as a result of COVID, it is a sombre reminder that we all need to be vigilant of the effects of this pandemic. I thank all parents/carers for keeping your children home if they are unwell in any way. Hand washing remains our best defence against the spread of COVID and all other viruses and bacteria. As the number of cases increases, we are seeing an increase in the worry of some of our students, who are asking about things they have seen on television or heard on the radio. We encourage you to limit the amount of information regarding COVID that your child has access to. If your child asks questions, be honest, but also give them information that reduces their worries. Reassure them that at school and home we are doing all we can to keep them safe and focus on the positives that are in our lives.

If you or a close family member have been in Victoria recently, please adhere to Health guidelines. There are no restrictions on travel to Sydney, I urge you to exercise caution, maintain distancing and have a COVID test if you feel unwell in any well.

### **Cyber Safety**

I have had a number of parents in Years 4-6 contact me in regards to inappropriate online behaviours. Children are engaging in online games and social media, which are, in many cases, a positive experience, especially as restriction have sometimes distanced us from friends and family. However, we are also seeing an increased number of arguments or disagreements arise, leading to inappropriate comments being made in the online environment. Parents often ask the school to intervene in behaviours that are occurring when children are at home. All social media site have recommended ages, yet these are ignored so children do not miss out when "everyone else" is online. Let me assure everyone else is NOT online. If you believe your child does have the maturity to use social media, you should still supervise their behaviour by ensuring they use their device in a public space NOT their bedroom and that they allow you to access their accounts. Additionally, we have an increasing number of parents who are worried about children that access their devices overnight, resulting in extreme tiredness at school, as they wake up every hour or two to check for messages.

Please refer to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> for excellent advice on keeping your child safe online.

**Kaylene Maretich**  
**Acting Principal**

## **Acting Assistant Principal's Message**

### **Jeans for Genes Day**

This year St Therese's will support Jeans for Genes day on Friday, August 7th. Jeans for Genes is an opportunity to teach students about science and compassion for others. It is especially important for our community as our very own Molly Jane (MJ) R in Grade 4 is one of the child ambassadors for this fabulous fundraiser. Our staff and students are asked to wear jeans to school on this day and to donate a gold coin to such a wonderful cause. Your donation will help scientists cure genetic diseases and other serious conditions affecting 1 in 20 children – that's nearly one child in every classroom.

For further donations:

Please support research at CMRI for the thousands of kids like MJ with genetic diseases, by donating to her fundraising page: [www.myjeansforgenes.org.au/miracle-mollyjanes-fight-for-a-cure](http://www.myjeansforgenes.org.au/miracle-mollyjanes-fight-for-a-cure)

### **Office of Safeguarding - Online Bullying**

With the onset of the pandemic and an increased use of online forums for learning and socialising, unfortunately communities all over the world have seen a surge in online abuse and cyber bullying. Duty of care is a responsibility of all and we should all continue to enact, adapt and enhance our skills to eliminate and reduce the risks that could harm our children. I recently came across the below four points about online bullying and thought I would share them with you. The resource was entitled "**4 Things everyone needs to STOP doing online**".

1. Posting from someone else's profile or changing it. If you don't have consent, it's not right. You may think it's a harmless joke, but it's not a joke unless everyone is in on it.

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2. Pretending to be someone else online. It's an invasion of their privacy. Plus, being yourself just feels right.
3. Sending photos of someone without their permission. Everyone has the right to choose who sees their photos, and which photos of theirs are posted online.
4. Intentionally excluding someone, like leaving someone out of group chats. It's never nice to feel left out, and just because it's happening behind a screen, doesn't mean it still doesn't feel awful.

Please read this with your child and for more excellent resources visit [https://padlet.com/Office\\_of\\_Safeguarding/cybersafety\\_primary\\_school](https://padlet.com/Office_of_Safeguarding/cybersafety_primary_school). The more we talk about cyber bullying the more aware our children will be and the better equipped to handle situations.

## **ASPIRE Auditions 2021**

The 2021 ASPIRE Audition process is now open until the last day of this term (Friday 25 September 2020). I have attached the link to the ASPIRE website to access the online Audition Form: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/join-us/2021-auditions/>. Auditions are open for students in Grade 4, 5 and 6.

## **Father's Day**

This Year we are unable to hold a Father's Day stall, BBQ or other craft activities in the classroom. We understand that this is a shame but it can't be helped. I am sure all our Father's, Stepdad's and Grandfather's in our lives will understand.

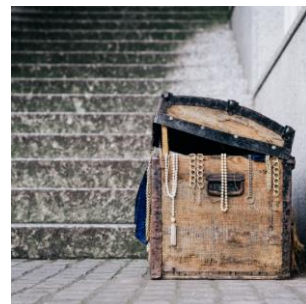
**Deb Petersen**

**Acting Assistant Principal**

## **RE News**

**Where your heart is, there lies your treasure** – *Our Treasure is the Kingdom of God*

In Sunday's Gospel we hear Jesus teaching the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. He uses analogies such as discovering hidden treasure, merchants looking for pearls and dragnets catching a full haul. In each case, whatever is found is treasured and kept by the finder at the expense of all else in their life. How often can we honestly admit to searching for God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength? Yet Jesus is assuring the people that when they do so the treasure, that is the Kingdom of God, is there to be found. In this way, we can experience the reality of the words we pray in the 'Our Father' when we say, "...Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven." Suddenly, and rather miraculously, we become aware that Heaven is not a place we wait for in the future, based on the uncertainty of whether we are deserving or not. Rather, Heaven is a place we can create, with the help and guidance of God's Spirit of Love, here and now. Surely that is a treasure worth giving up all else for!



**Faith Formation Day** – **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August (Week 6)** will be a Faith Formation day for staff and thus, will be a pupil-free day. Faith Formation days are an important part of our staff's ongoing development in understanding, teaching and passing on the Catholic Faith to our students.

**Parish Mass Information** – The message below has been taken directly from the latest parish bulletin: ***Restrictions on Public Mass attendance have been lifted*** so that now the only limit on numbers is the 4 square metre rule. This means that **bookings are no longer essential in order to attend Waratah (75 capacity) or New Lambton (90 capacity)**, and people will instead sign in as they enter the church. **However, bookings are still essential for Lambton (35 capacity) at this time**, and those wishing to attend should phone the Parish Office by 3:00PM Thursday, giving your name and contact phone or email.

(Obviously in the current climate of increasing COVID case numbers, this may change again soon. Therefore, now may be the opportune moment to get to Mass whilst there are less restrictions in place)

**Luke Smith**

**Religious Education Coordinator**

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## **School Community News**

### **Fee Statements**

Fee statements will be sent out at the end of this week. Year 5 & 6 parents please note that a credit for Aspire/Diosounds will be applied to your fees. Year 3 parents a credit for the hunter water excursion will be applied to your fees. If you have any questions please contact the office on 4957 4922.

**Vicki McSpadden**

***Bursar***

## **PBS**

### **Principal Awards**

The following students will receive a Principal's Award at this week's Zoom school assembly:

KN – Brittany O

2N – Hema R

2L – Milla G, Lily P

3L – Sophie G, Samuel P, Noah M

4W – Justin P

4L – Neelke B, Edward R, Matilda K, Sophie G

5N – Lucinda P

**Date: Friday 31st July Time: 2:40pm ID: 965 9284 7849 P/W: 133626**

Congratulations and thank you children, for upholding the values and principles of St Therese's.

**Janine Schneider**

***Primary Coordinator***

### **ICAS Assessments Dates:**

Science: Monday 17th August (week 5)

Digital Technology, Monday 24th August (week 6)

English Tuesday 25th August (week 6)

Maths, Monday 31st August (week 7)

Spelling Tuesday 1st September (week 7)

On the morning of their assessment students go to:

Where: 4N Classroom (Ms Jackman's room)

Time: 8.10am.

Year 5 & 6 students are to bring their own devices. Year 3 & 4 students will have a device provided for them.

All students doing the Spelling Assessment, need to bring their own head phones.

If for some reason a student is unable to attend their assessment please see Ms Jackman ASAP as make up times are limited.

**Therese Jackman**

***Primary Coordinator***

100 Days of Kindergarten 2020







## Good for Kids good for life

### EASY SWAPS IN THE LUNCHBOX

Packing healthy snacks in the lunchbox does not have to be time consuming. Swap from some of these common 'sometimes' lunchbox products to easy alternatives that add extra fibre and nutrition to your child's day:

- Chips → Wholegrain rice cracker bites



- Biscuit and cream cheese snack → carrot sticks and hummus



- Muffin or muffin bar → pikelets



- Tiny teddies → Whole grain fruity bites



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

[HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>



*Think, Grow, Shine.*



*Jeans  
for Genes*

# RAISE MONEY. FIND CURES. JEAN-IUS.

You can help find  
treatments and cures for  
the 12 kids born every  
minute with a birth  
defect or genetic disease.

Mollyjane, 10  
CACT Deficiency



Please give today at  
**[JeansForGenes.org.au](http://JeansForGenes.org.au)**

*To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*

