



## Principal's Message

### Change of Dates for start of school for 2021

The Catholic Schools Office has informed all schools of a change of date for students commencing in 2021.

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### The following dates are:

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Years 2 – 6

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February - Year 1

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Kindergarten

We apologise for the late notice and any inconvenience this may cause our families.

**Duilio Rufo**  
**Principal**

## Acting Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

This is the final Newsletter for 2020, and what an extraordinary year it has been. I would like to thank Mr Rufo for the opportunity of stepping into the Acting Principal's position and all the support and advice he has given me throughout this time. I would also like to thank all the staff of St Therese's, especially the leadership team, for all your hard work and support in quite an extraordinary year. Thank you also to the students, for always reminding me of what is important in life – having fun, laughing and working hard, the world through the eyes of a child is truly a remarkable place and sometimes in our busy lives we tend to forget this. Thank all of you parents, who have taken all the changes this year in your stride, with so many of you sending in words of encouragement and gratitude, which reminds me of how blessed I am to be a part of this beautiful community.

As the 2020 draws to an end, I thought I would take a trip down memory lane to the highlights of the year:

- January – meeting our kindergarten 2020 students and new students to the school and the launch of Successful Foundations in kindergarten
- February – birth of Mr Breen's daughter, harvesting our summer crops & the launch of Clarity across the school to improve student outcomes

*Improving student outcomes message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*

## Dates to Remember

9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> DEC YR 6 CAMP

10<sup>TH</sup> DEC SWIMMING CARNIVAL

**15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup> CANTEEN  
CLOSED**

16<sup>TH</sup> DEC LAST DAY OF SCHOOL  
& AWARD CEREMONY  
YEAR 6 CLAPOUT

**NO LUNCH ORDERS**

**29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY YRS 2 – 6 FIRST DAY**

**1<sup>ST</sup> FEB YR 1 - FIRST DAY**

**2<sup>ND</sup> FEB KINDERGARTEN FIRST DAY**

- March – restrictions start and home learning began & NAPLAN 2020 cancelled
- April – Easter, the building of the Catherine McAuley Centre starts & Autumn holidays
- May – Daniel Rufo's son is born, Mother's Day, transition of students and staff back to school & "Be a Mate" day
- June – CSO Visual Art competition & PJ Day
- July – Winter holidays
- August – Miss Polson gets married, Jeans for Genes Day, Zoom meetings for Parent/Teacher interviews & Ms Sokulsky gets married
- September – Father's Day, R U OK Day, Jersey Day & Spring holidays
- October – return of Mr Rufo & the birth of Mrs Maier's son
- November – Mrs Dawson grandson is born, Mr Moore's daughter is born, Inquisitive Minds, Lotus and Miss Smith's engagement

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021. I hope you have a happy and holy Christmas season with family and friends.

### **Staffing 2021**

Principal – Mr Duilio Rufo

Assistant Principal – Mrs Kaylene Maretich

Religious Education Coordinator – Mr Luke Smith

Primary Coordinators – Mrs Janine Schneider, Ms Therese Jackman & Mrs Debra Petersen

Learning Support Coordinator – Ms Melanie Faehndrich

Learning Technology Coordinator – Mrs Lynette Barker

Clerical Staff – Mrs Vicki McSpadden, Mrs Louise Dawson & Mrs Jenny Hurst

Kindergarten – KN Mrs Julia Briggs, KW Miss Alex Toscano & KL Mrs Kristy Healey/Mrs Bernadette Duffy

Year 1 – 1N Miss Jennifer Curtain, 1W Mrs Naomi Parker/Miss Phoebe Parker & 1L Mrs Janine Schneider/Miss Helena Elias

Year 2 – 2N Ms Carmel Warby/Mrs Marcia Keenan, 2W Miss Elli Smith & 2L Mrs Melinda Helmer

Year 3 – 3N Mr John Rouse, 3W Mrs Leanne Kepreotes & 3L Ms Teresa Sokulsky

Year 4 – 4N Ms Therese Jackman/Mrs Patricia McNeil, 4W Miss Carly Mortimer & 4L Mrs Alexandra Wilson

Year 5 – 5N Mrs Debra Petersen/Mrs Trish Aumuller, 5W Mr Tim Breen & 5L Mrs Anne Sturt/Mrs Naomi Venables

Year 6 – 6N Mr Luke Smith, 6W Mr Anthony Moore & 6L Ms Shazmey Murray/Mrs Monica Griffiths

Teacher Librarians – Mrs Lynette Barker & Mrs Brigitta Gleeson

Specialist Teachers – Mrs Alina Brymora (Music) & Mr Joel Hartcher (PE)

Learning Support Teachers – Mrs Melanie Faehndrich & Mrs Angela Schneider

Gifted Education Mentor – Mrs Patricia McNeil

EALD – Mrs Maree Adams

School Counsellor – Mrs Tamara Burns

### **Farewell to Staff**

At the end of the year we will farewell the following staff:

- Miss Olivia D'Accione who has been given a position at St John's in Maitland for 2021
- Mrs Teagan Newson who has been given a position at St Patrick's in Lochinvar for 2021
- Mrs Sandra Breton who is taking long service leave, then retiring. Mrs Breton has been a learning support assistant for 20 years at St Therese's and has worked with so many children, especially in the infant classes. Mrs Breton's kind, patient and nurturing demeanour will be missed by all at St Therese's.
- Mrs Angela Hall who has assisted students in the sick bay, as well as parents and staff in her role in the office. Mrs Hall is always ready to help anyone and is also a beautiful artist.

We wish these wonderful ladies all the very best, you will be missed.

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



### **Year 6 Graduation**

On Monday we held our Year 6 Graduation Prayer Service and Awards via Live Stream. Thank you to the Year 6 teachers; Mr Smith, Ms Polson, Mrs Anthony & Mr Moore for organising these beautiful events. The Year 6 children had a special and memorable end to their time with us at St Therese's. They then had lunch and cupcakes together to celebrate this occasion, as well as finishing early to spend the afternoon with their families. Thank you to all the parents, family, friends and other classes at St Therese's for joining us for the live stream, I am told there were 260 different "logins" to the live stream. So while the graduation was done in a very different way, we were all able to include family and friends who would not be able to join us from around Australia. Thank you to Mrs Barker and Mr Newman, from the CSO, who live streamed these events so professionally.

Year 6 and their teachers are now looking forward to camp at The Collaroy Centre this Wednesday to Friday.

### **K-5 Awards**

Our award ceremonies for students in years K-5 will be held next **Wednesday 16 December** as follows:

- 9:30 – Kindergarten
- 10:00 – Year 1
- 10:30 – Year 2
- 11:00 – Year 3
- 12:15 – Year 4
- 12:45 – Year 5
- 1:15 – Year 6 Presentation of Year Book and final farewell

This is the link to our 'Live Event' broadcast for our end of year awards on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. You can view the event on any computer by simply clicking the link. If you are using a phone for the broadcast you will need to download the Microsoft Teams app and login with a Microsoft email to view the broadcast.

<https://bit.ly/awardsnwl>

Last week Kindergarten recorded the Nativity, which will be played at the beginning of each award ceremony.

### **Christmas Day**

Next **Tuesday 15 December** all staff and students are invited to wear festive Christmas clothing and/or accessories. Please ensure your child is wearing closed in shoes, a hat and tops that cover their shoulders to ensure sun safety. There is no donation for being out of uniform, it is just a fun day to spread some Christmas cheer.

### **Year 6 "Clap Out" – Wednesday 16 December**

We have a custom of "clapping out" our Year 6 students on their last day at St Therese's, a tradition that will continue in a modified form this year. We ask that parents in Years K-5 do not come early to pick up their child on the last day, so that we can farewell our Year 6 students in the manner they deserve.



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

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**Duilio Rufo**  
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**Kaylene Maretich**  
**Acting Principal**

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

#### **Swimming Carnival**

This week we will hold our 2020 Swimming carnival. It will look and be conducted in a very different way and it is important that we follow all of the guidelines set in place. I wanted to thank Mrs Leanne Kepreotes and Mrs Janine Schneider for their organisation and time in setting up the carnival. This will ensure we have competitive swimmers to represent our school in 2021 if plans go ahead for Regional, Diocesan and Polding swim meets. I will work with staff to have all results of the school carnival as soon as possible. Best of luck to all of our swimmers who are competing on Thursday.

#### **Reflection and Thank you**

I thought I would save my thank you's to the St Therese's school community until the end of the school year. Stepping up into the Acting Assistant Principal role, has been rewarding, challenging (at times) and fulfilling. My passion for helping the wonderful students, supporting our parent community and working alongside the dedicated staff here at St Therese's has only grown. I have been impressed and overwhelmed at times by the warmth and support many people have shown me over the past 18 months.

I have especially enjoyed working closely with Kaylene Maretich and the school Leadership Team to lead and support the school during Duilio's absence. I hope that every child enrolled here continues to enjoy the exciting educational opportunities provided by our great school. 2021 is looking to be a bright, fun, energetic and productive school year and I am truly blessed to be a part of this community. I am so very grateful for the opportunity and I thank you all. Merry Christmas to every family and all the best for a happy and safe holiday.

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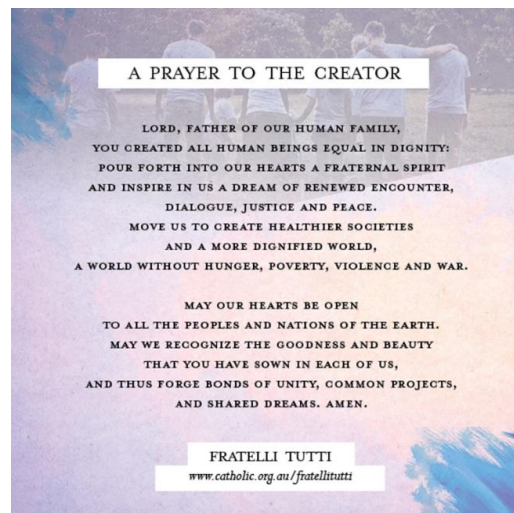


Deb Petersen  
Acting Assistant Principal

## RE News

**Papal Encyclical – ‘Fratelli Tutti’ (Brothers & Sisters All):** This week the teachings of the papal encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, concerning Pope Francis’ call to a more universal fraternity and social friendship amongst humanity are taken from its seventh chapter, **“Paths of Renewed Encounter”**. The following excerpt is taken from; <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-10/fratelli-tutti-pope-fraternity-social-friendship-short-summary.html>

*The value and promotion of peace is reflected on in the seventh chapter, “Paths of renewed encounter”, in which the Pope underlines that peace is connected to truth, justice and mercy. Far from the desire for vengeance, it is “proactive” and aims at forming a society based on service to others and on the pursuit of reconciliation and mutual development. Thus, peace is an “art” that involves and regards everyone and in which each one must do his or her part in “a never-ending task” (see Par 227-232). Forgiveness is linked to peace: we must love everyone, without exception – the Encyclical reads – but loving an oppressor means helping him to change and not allowing him to continue oppressing his neighbour (see Par 241-242). Forgiveness does not mean impunity, but rather, justice and remembrance, because to forgive does not mean to forget, but to renounce the destructive power of evil and the desire for revenge. Never forget “horrors” like the Shoah, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, persecutions and ethnic massacres – exhorts the Pope. They must be remembered always, anew, so as not to become anaesthetized and to keep the flame of collective conscience alive.*



Please see the Term 4, Week 1 Newsletter containing links to the full encyclical and other sites which give insight and understanding into its teachings.

## Mission Day

Last Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, our Year 6 students did a fabulous job of running the rotational activities for our final Mission Day of the year. We raised a total of \$697.15 for Catholic Mission. In what has been a challenging year, I want to personally thank you for your generosity in supporting all of our Mission Days. These days are a vital component of our social justice work which, in turn, is informed and established upon Catholic Social Teaching. As a community, I believe St Therese’s does a wonderful job of



educating our students regarding the importance of reaching out to others. Thank you for your support in helping our students bring Christ to the world.

## Year 6 Graduation

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, we hosted our very first “livestream” Graduation Ceremony. From all reports and feedback thus far, it was a great success with 260 people logging in to watch our Year 6 students officially conclude their schooling here at St Therese’s. The occasion commenced with a commemorative prayer service and was followed by the presentation of awards. We are extremely proud of all of our Year 6 students and were particularly impressed with the way in which they prepared

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for such a different style of graduation this year. As a cohort, they have certainly developed their virtues of flexibility and resilience throughout the year. The students then enjoyed the opportunity to relax and socialise with one another over lunch, prior to an early finish to the day. A recording of the event will be provided for parents soon, along with more photos to be uploaded for your viewing.

**Merry Christmas** – May the peace, joy and hope of Christ fill your hearts and homes over this festive season, leaving you refreshed, renewed and energised for the New Year in 2021. Many blessings upon all of you and your families and thank you for your support throughout this year in ensuring that Jesus Christ remains at the heart of all we do and teach to our children.

**Liturgy in 2021** – Please see the links below for the latest information from the MN Diocese regarding Liturgy Matters in 2021. The second link contains information around how the Sacramental program may be reimagined as we move forward. More information, including dates, etc, will be provided in early 2021. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
<https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/2020/53137-liturgy-matters-2021a-liturgical-bridge-from-2020/>  
<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4524/dlc-liturgy-2021-guidance-to-donn-final.pdf>

**Luke Smith**  
**Religious Coordinator**

**Family Discount Form**

Please complete and return the Family Discount Form to ensure you receive the correct discount on next year's fee. If you have a Health Care Card please enquire at the office as there is a new form to be completed. School fees are due to be finalized for the year. If this is your final year at St Therese's please ensure your fees have been finalized. If you are experiencing financial hardship please contact the school on 49 574 922 to speak to the Principal.

**Vicki McSpadden**  
**Bursar**

**Canteen News**

Thank you to everyone who has helped out in the canteen this year. It has been a crazy year and the kids and I really appreciate everything you do. Looking forward to doing it all again in 2021!

**The Canteen will be closed on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December as we will be moving into our new Canteen.**

**Belinda Palmer, Canteen Supervisor**  
**Creative Arts 2021**



Next year there will be a focus placed on the Creative Arts and working with students in this area to discover and harness their potentials. The project will be in its first year and therefore the setting up of an appropriate area is essential. The school is looking for artist easels for painting, drawing and creating. These can be easels that sit on tables or free standing. If anyone has an easel that is no longer used I would be very interested in taking it off your hands and using it in our new Creative Arts area. I have include some pictures of the easels we are after. Thank you for your help.

**Debra Petersen, Primary Coordinator**

**Vinnies Christmas Food Appeal**

Thank you, to all those who donated so generously to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. On Friday 4th December the children from Year 5 helped St Vincent de Paul representatives, Joy and Maureen to load Christmas goodies for the families in need in our area. Well done St Therese's community! God Bless you.

**Year5 Mini Vinnies**

**Kinder Nativity**





The Kinder Nativity is a tradition at St Therese's and something we look forward to every year. This year due to COVID restrictions we were unable to perform in the hall at our end of year awards ceremony. So that this year Kinder children did not miss out, we have prepared our nativity a little differently! Instead all children brought their costumes to school so that we could film our version of the nativity over two days. Special thanks to Mrs Brymora for helping us to sing the songs. A very special thankyou to Elizabeth Duffy for all her wonderful camera work. We look forward to sharing our Nativity video with

School Spirit Award for demonstrating <b>INCLUSIVITY</b> throughout the term.					
<b>KN</b>	Joanna C Santiago P	<b>KW</b>	Ruby J Roman A	<b>KL</b>	Riley L Olivia M
<b>1N</b>	Bellamy W Zachery W	<b>1W</b>	Max C Jack R	<b>1L</b>	Mason S Frankie H
<b>2N</b>	Lucia R Thomas T	<b>2W</b>	Esmeralda H Koby P	<b>2L</b>	Archie L Miah F
<b>3N</b>	Niah N Aleks S	<b>3W</b>	Hunter C Jordy T	<b>3L</b>	Maiya A Miles T
<b>4N</b>	Ella F Callum O	<b>4W</b>	Xavier R Justin P	<b>4L</b>	Isla R Nicholas B
<b>5N</b>	Patrick D Marni B	<b>5W</b>	Myles N Beau P	<b>5L</b>	Liam K James M
<b>6N</b>	Will G Max N	<b>6W</b>	Claire N Tom P	<b>6L</b>	Matilda C Liam W

you during the live streaming of the awards ceremony next week.



Kindergarten Teachers

[PBS](#)

**School Spirit Awards**

This term we focused on the value of **Inclusivity**. We congratulate the following students who received the School Spirit Award last week for demonstrating this value throughout the term:

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



Our school Spirit Awards have finished for the year. I would like to take this opportunity to **thank** all of the members of the **Year 6 PBS Team** for helping to create our weekly PBS Rule of the Week videos. They have given up their lunch and recess times to do this and have shown wonderful leadership in helping to instil the St Therese's values into our beautiful school. I will miss them, and I wish them all the very best!



### **Principal Awards**

The following students will receive a Principal's Award at our final Zoom school assembly:

**KN** – Thomas P; **KW** – Maddisia C, Roman A; **KL** – Chase P; **1N** – Ajay C; **1W** – Cedella B, Lucia F, Violet H, Flynn P, Kurt P, Egan V; **1L** – Milla C, Oliver H, Audrey J, Phoebe B, Chase M, Marcus S, Georgie A; **3W** – Lucy B; **3L** – Maiya A, Samuel P, Ruby M, Sophie S; **4N** – Lucy Allen, Ayanna F, Mae P, Myles H, Oisin M; **4W** – Ryan C, Olivia M, Justin P; **5N** – Peter V; **5L** – Christina S.

**Date: Friday 11th December    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**

## **Sport**

### **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

St Therese's swimming carnival is on Thursday 10th December.

Please remember:

- All students must travel to/from Lambton Pool via the allocated bus. NO PARENT IS TO DROP THEIR CHILD TO THE POOL.
- the roll will be marked at school prior to boarding the bus
- no spectators allowed due to Covid
- All students must wear their swimmers to school. The children can get changed after the carnival back at school.
- Girls must wear one-piece swimmers.
- Caps & goggles are optional but cannot be shared.
- Please bring all food and drink, no canteen facilities are available.

**If there is anyone who has missed the chance to enter their child in our competitor's carnival, please contact the school via email ASAP.**

**Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help at the carnival. Unfortunately, we have the limited number of helpers (due to Covid-19 restrictions).**

A copy of the Order of Events is attached to this newsletter.

**Leanne Kepreotes**

## **OOSH St Nicholas**

Hello to everyone from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton.

Our fabulous vacation care program is out now. Please email or text the service if you would like a copy of the program and booking form to be emailed. Please note that vacation care bookings cannot be done via the Xplor app. Text: 0455 099 594 Email: [newlambton@stnicholasoosh.org.au](mailto:newlambton@stnicholasoosh.org.au)

Kind regards



CHRISTINE MORGAN

