



Principal's Message

Dear Parents

So far Ajay has raised \$3660 for shaving his head for triple negative breast cancer in memory of his mama.

Thank you so much for the school community support. We have been blown away by the kindness and generosity of people. Ajay's goal was to raise \$300.

I congratulate Ajay on his initiative and this is a fine example of how to make Jesus real in the world today.



Ritchies Donation

Last week the school captains and I met with the management team of Ritchies IGA in New Lambton to accept a donation of \$5,000 to our school. This was an unexpected and welcomed gift and I thank Ritchies for their community spirit and long-standing support of our school and I would recommend to our parents to continue to support the store. I have opened the discussion amongst the staff on how to best use this donation.

Can I suggest that some of you may like to sign up to the improved Ritchies loyalty card for your benefit and the school's.



Dates to Remember

17 FEB ASH WEDNESDAY
BOOK CLUB ORDERS DUE

19TH FEB PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE

22 FEB PP MEETINGS

25 FEB DIO PSSA SWIMMING CARNIVAL

26TH FEB PLAYGROUP RESUMES

1 MAR KINDER P&T INTERVIEWS

10 MAR DIO AFL TRIALS

12 MAR DIO CRICKET TRIALS

19 MAR HARMONY DAY & ANTI BULLYING DAY

26 MAR MISSION DAY

1 APR HOLY THURSDAY – LAST DAY OF TERM 1



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

Burke Street, New Lambton NSW 2305 | PO Box 321 | Phone 4957 4922 or 4956 2156 | Fax 4952 1637
admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au | www.newlambton.catholic.edu.au



Traffic Management

Once again I write to you to express my disappointment at the way parents and carers approach the afternoon dismissal in Burke Street. Over the years we have trialled a variety of pick up options to ensure the safety of all concerned, however you are not adhering to the general road rules or the plans we have put in place, causing major traffic congestion and real risk to all involved.

Today I will be meeting the WHS Team from the CSO to explore other options.

Until further notice I implore you all to observe the road rules, parking signage and pick up protocols to ensure the safety of all.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

Parent Teacher Meetings

This week all teachers in Years 1-6 are having Parent Teacher Meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child's teacher(s) to plan goals for this Semester. I thank all the teachers for their time, and know that each of them sees such benefit in these meetings so that the full potential of each child in their class can be achieved. Kindergarten parent teacher meetings will be held in Week 6, the bookings for these will remain open on Compass until this Friday 19 February at 4:00pm.

Celebrating Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays at St Therese's and we know how much the children look forward to celebrating with their friends. If you would like to send in a special treat for your child to share with their class, please ensure it is individually wrapped e.g. Freddo frogs, fun size chocolates, packets of chips etc. In the warmer months, you may like also like to organise ice-blocks that can either be purchased from the canteen, or sent in pre-frozen to be put into the freezers at school. At this time of continued restrictions, sharing of cakes and cupcakes is not recommended.

Smart Watches

Wearing a watch and learning to tell the time are vital life skills for all children and children's watches should be simple analogue or digital watches. However, we are seeing a growing number of children wearing Apple or Android Smart Watches that have the ability to text parents, take photos etc., which are also very expensive. We have had a number of children texting a parent/guardian during the school day to organise an alternate afternoon routine or to say they are unwell, without their teachers' knowledge or permission. All communication with parents during the school day, is conducted with staff, to keep your child safe. By wearing these devices, which allow children to communicate with, you are giving them an unconscious message that school is not a safe place. Additionally, some children have been taking photos of their friends on their watch, which goes against Child Protection guidelines. Children are to wear simple digital or analogue watches, any Smart watches worn to school will be placed on their teacher's desk and returned to your child at the end of the day.

Playgroup

We are very excited to announce that Playgroup will recommence this year on Friday from 9:30 – 10:30am in the School Hall. There are COVID guidelines that we need to adhere to, but are so looking forward to starting this fun and exciting time for parents and siblings of students at St Therese's. Thank you to Jo Kim, who has worked with us to look at the organisation of playgroup. This **Friday 19 February at 9:30am**, we welcome any parent/guardian that would like to join Jo in developing a Playgroup Committee. This meeting will be held in the Hall to look at some activities, organisation etc. and how playgroup will run this year. The first official playgroup session will be on **Friday 26 February**. Due to COVID the following guidelines have been put in place:

- Weekly playgroup for 1 hour
- Parents to pack a snack for their child
- Each session one parent/guardian will be asked to "serve" morning tea, this will be as simple as handing out biscuits with thongs
- Parent/guardian is to bring in their own drink (water, juice, tea, coffee etc.). To keep in-line with our environmental focus, we ask parents to use re-usable drink containers
- At the end of each session, all parents/guardians are asked to assist with disinfecting all items that are used
- Only 1 parent/guardian per child can attend each week

- Only parents/guardians of children enrolled at St Therese's can attend playgroup
 - We are aware that there are situations where families have a "gap" year between their older child moving onto high school and their a younger child starting school at St Therese's, these families continue to be very welcome at playgroup

P&F

Thank you to the parents/grandparents/guardian that joined us last week for the AGM. Most of the P&F executive were elected, we are still to fill the position of Treasurer. Please email me on kaylene.maretich@mn.catholic.edu.au, if you are interested in this position and I will pass your name onto the P&F.

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal

RE News

Shrove Tuesday – The day before Ash Wednesday has been traditionally marked by the making of pancakes. Background information about the significance and origin of this day can be found at the link below:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/shrove-tuesday/>

This year, we encourage families to participate in 'home-based' celebrations of Shrove Tuesday as part of our community preparations for the upcoming season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 17th February

The following information concerning Ash Wednesday comes from the CSO:

*Given the recent communication from the Vatican regarding the distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Diocesan Liturgy Office and CSO RE & S Team **request that schools refrain from distributing Ashes this Ash Wednesday in school or class liturgies.***

Therefore, as a school community, we will be participating in a meaningful prayer celebration with our students that compliments the distribution of ashes within the Parish.

To attend one of the Ash Wednesday Masses within the Holy Trinity Parish, the times at the various churches are listed below:

7:00am – Lambton

12:00pm – Waratah

7:00pm – New Lambton

Lent – For anyone wishing to subscribe to an online Lenten program, the following link and subsequent daily videos may interest you:

LENT 2021 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY

Be inspired, Be refreshed, Be renewed!

"Come on a 40 day journey with me and I know this will be a powerful and prayerful Lenten journey together. Receive a short inspiring video each day during Lent. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:" <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

Any parents within our community who would like to be part of a Lenten program around 'Collaborative Dialogue' in preparation for the upcoming Diocesan Synod, please email me directly ASAP at: luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au

If numbers permit, I am happy to look at the possibility of running a parent Lenten group on Thursdays and/or Fridays during Lent.

Project Compassion – At St Therese's, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, and as part of our Social Justice Framework, Lent is traditionally accompanied by our support of Caritas' Project Compassion. The theme for 2021 is, "**Be More**". Resources (including donation boxes) will be distributed soon. Please find more information at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/>

Making Jesus Real (MJR) at St Therese's – As a staff, we have recently been looking at ways in which we can enhance our awards system, bring our **Mercy Educational Values (Compassion, Respect, Courage, Justice, Service & Hospitality)** to the fore, and create a sense of continuity and common language throughout the school. As a result; inspired by the concept, language and strategies of the **Virtues Project** (<https://virtuesproject.com/homepage.html>), we will be integrating **MJR Stars** within

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the context of our current awards system. For information on 'how' this will work, please read Mrs Schneider's PBS section in the Newsletter. As for the 'why', I believe it truly will have a profound impact upon the confidence, resilience, and the language and behaviours we are equipping our students with as they grow. It also ensures the Mercy Educational Values remain as the foundation and at the forefront of all we do and that, in big and small ways, every day at St Therese's is an opportunity to see our children, Making Jesus Real. Please talk to your child/ren about this and view the link above to deepen your own understanding of talking the language of virtues. Further information will come in the Newsletter over the upcoming weeks.

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Luke Smith
Religious Coordinator

School Community News

Canteen News

Families new to the school may not be aware that our canteen is a member of the Healthy Kids School Canteen Association and follows the Department of Education's NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy. We are also nut-free.

Family Discount Form 2021 School Fees

Thank you to those families who completed the Family Discount form last year. There are a significant number of families who have not returned this form. To ensure you receive the correct discounts on your bill, please complete attached form and return to office ASAP (copy attached to newsletter). If you have a Health Care Card please contact the office for the correct paperwork to complete.

Vicki McSpadden
Bursar

PBS – School Spirit Awards

This term we are focusing on the value of **Respect**. We congratulate the following children for receiving the PBS School Spirit Award last week for demonstrating **RESPECT** by *displaying appropriate manners*:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT by displaying appropriate manners.					
KN	Bonnie B Lewis P	KW	Vann R Henry W	KL	Florence R Michael M
1N	Jake H Chase P	1W	Olivia M Bastian T	1L	Jennifer J Jackson F
2N	Tayla A Jack R	2W	Maeve H Chase M	2L	Jerome G Milla C
3N	Miriam G Louie B	3W	Alexander J Ella M	3L	Anna P Spencer P
4N	Jordy T Maggie B	4W	Chandler D Poppy	4L	Rosemary C Gracie B
5N	Finn N Ella F	5W	Liliana D Isla R	5L	Anna G Griffin S
6N	Jack L Lilly R	6W	Elizabeth W Hannah A	6L	Liam K Vahri F

This week we continue our focus on demonstrating the value of **Respect** by *displaying appropriate manners*.

Making Jesus Real Stars (MJR Stars)

Your child may come home telling you that they have received an MJR Star. These stars will be handed out by all staff members and members of the Year 6 PBS Team and Student Council when they witness students demonstrating behaviours related to our school values. When your child has

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



collected **10 MJR Stars** they will receive a **School Merit Award** (the blue and white ones). School Merit Awards will also be handed out by teachers for various other achievements.

Principal's Awards

When students have received **3 School Merit Awards**, they will receive a **Principal's Award** at our Friday afternoon Zoom School Assembly. Any student receiving a Principal's Award will have their name published in the Newsletter so parents know in advance and can Zoom in to our assembly to see their child receiving the award.

Zoom School Assembly

Day: Friday Time: 2:40pm

Zoom ID: 966 2726 0769

P/W: 520 331

Janine Schneider
Coordinator

News from the Performing Arts Centre

Please find information about ASPIRE's 2021 Junior Theatre Makers Program which will commence in Term 2. If you could advertise this in your school newsletter, COMPASS, and on your school noticeboards. I have attached the link to the ASPIRE website: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/join-us/junior-theatre-makers-ensemble/>

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anne Atkins

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
P 4979 1331 F 4979 1208

Email anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au Visit us online <http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Art Studio

On Friday some Stage 3 students started their Semester long Art Project with me in the Catherine McAuley Centre and then in our "Art Studio" which is located in the schools main hall. The students were super excited and we had a lovely day working on our "To Live life to the Full" art project that together we will work on for Semester One. The Art Studio (which is in the main hall) is a work in progress and I thank Carla Ladmore and Odette Tonkin for helping us to complete the room. Once completed I will share some more photos with our school community.



Deb (Matisse) Petersen



Sport

Regional Swimming carnival

Congratulations to all the children who attended the Central Region Swimming Carnival last Wednesday. I was proud of you all in regards to your effort in the pool and the positive sportsmanship you demonstrated. It was a long day in the grand stand, but your positive behaviour was appreciated and I thank you all for your patience. As a result of the day we now have a squad of 12 students who will compete at the Diocesan carnival on Thursday, 25th February.

Deb Petersen
Coordinator

Sporting Trials

What a busy beginning to Term 1 for St. Therese's in terms of sport! Already we have had Polding trials and many of our Winter Sport trials have happened or are happening, all this on top of large events such as the Regional Swimming Carnival.

In retrospect, please join me in congratulating the following students for attaining a trial at Polding level:

Basketball - Tyler B and Oscar M

Tennis - Hanna A and Dylan F

These trials occurred earlier in the month and although we were not successful this time, I hear on good authority that these students certainly gave it their best and represented St. Therese's well.

Friday last week saw many of our talented cricketer's trialling for a potential spot at Diocesan level at their respective Regional trial; please join me in congratulating the following students: Neelke B, Olivia M, Emily C, Peter V, Daniel J, Patrick D and Nicholas B. Could you join me in further congratulating Patrick D who has made it through for a Polding trial for cricket!

We have some Regional Trials happening this Friday for both Soccer and Netball and we congratulate the following students for being selected to attend these events and sincerely wish them all the very best!

Soccer - Phillipa A, Hanna A, Taylah Y, Ayla D, Christina S, Oscar M, Nate B, Angus G, George H and Tyler B

Netball - Charlotte L, Ella T, Charlize R, Grace S and Grace H

More Winter Trials are to be finalised this week and we will congratulate those students in due course.

Joel Hartcher, Sports Coordinator

OOSH St Nicholas

Hello to everyone from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton

We had another great week with more new children coming on board almost every day. The children have been enjoying painting calico bags and also made some beautiful Chinese lanterns to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The construction zone is as popular as always and with the addition of some trucks and marbles the children have made some incredible structures including some large marble runs. Outdoors we have been playing some epic games of cricket with some children learning some new skills such as batting and bowling. This week will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday with some yummy pancakes for breakfast.

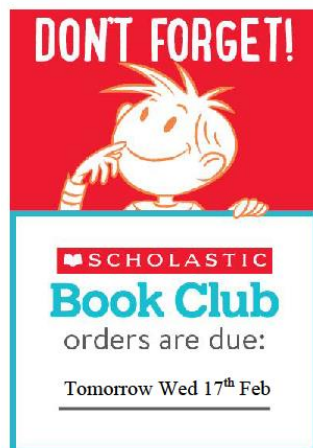
As our numbers are continually growing I would like to remind families that casual bookings can be made in the Xplor app. Please do not bring your child/ren for casual before school care unless a booking has been confirmed by staff. If you bring your child/ren for before school without a booking there is a chance that we will not be able to provide care due to the staff ratio of 1 : 15. All casual bookings for before school care should be made via the Xplor app before 2pm the day before or by sending a text message to the service phone. Emails and Xplor app bookings made after 2pm will not be attended to until the following day at 10am. Casual bookings for afterschool care should be made before 2pm for the same day.

Kind regards,

Christine Morgan, Nominated Supervisor, ph: 0455 099 594

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Calling all Rock n' Rollers!! Learn guitar St Therese's in 2021

Open to years K to 6, students will learn everything from Billy Eilish to The Weeknd, to Post Malone, to Imagine Dragons, to Guy Sebastian, to Tones and I, to AC/DC, all whilst learning acoustic and electric guitar skills, learning to perform as part of a group and enjoying the excitement and experience of being a real musician with skills that will last a lifetime. All lessons are conducted in small groups, based on age and skill level, but also with a big focus on jamming with their mates. If you are interested in your child being involved please email: ricky@rickysmusic tuition.com.au or text **0407 534 944** for more information.



How can I learn more about ways to help my child learn?

So, you're wondering how you can find out more about Cybersafety? Maybe you want to listen to national and international experts on anxiety, building resilience in children and young people and learn more about keeping your kids safe or listen to experts share tips on supporting young people approaching the HSC?



You need to join the Federation of P & F Association Facebook page.



Read us on Facebook

What does the "Federation of P & F Association" do?

The Federation works to strengthen the participation of all parents and carers in Catholic schools in the Diocese and to promote and advance Catholic Education and its excellence. Along with our work in advocacy and supporting Catholic education generally, we regularly invite you to events (currently via Zoom) where you can build your understanding of lots of issues that impact our children....and it's all FREE!

Use this QR code to get onboard!

For further information E: cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au



ASPIRE
MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT

<https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter from the Artistic Director

ASPIRE is again collaborating with internationally recognised Newcastle-based company Catapult Dance in 2021.

Building on the success of previous programs, the Create Choreographic Project will offer students enrolled in schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle the opportunity to participate in an intensive contemporary dance and collaborative choreographic program.

Students will be provided with a dance and performance art experience that is inclusive, non-competitive, creative and collaborative, and that reflects the working processes of the professional industry. Students will be encouraged to have a voice, and present their thoughts and ideas in a studio setting at the end of the program.

The Create Choreographic Project will run from Monday 22 February 2021 to Friday 26 February 2021.

Dancers will be split into Junior (Years 4–6) and Senior (Years 7–12) groups to create an original piece to perform. They will work alongside professional choreographers at Catapult Dance's studio in Newcastle West.

Secondary students need to have dance training. Primary students must have a genuine interest in and flair for dance, but don't necessarily have to attend dance lessons outside of school.

Students can register for the program by filling out an application form, which must be signed by a parent/carer and teacher from their school. Please forward completed forms via email to anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Atkins for further information.

PROJECT DATES

COST

Junior	Monday 22 February 2021 – Tuesday 23 February 2021	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$60.00
Senior	Wednesday 24 February 2021 – Friday 26 February 2021	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$90.00

To register please complete the form overleaf and return to Anne Atkins
anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

ASPIRE