



Assistant Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 5, it is hard to believe that we are almost half way through Term 1.

Update on Duilio

Duilio had an angiogram yesterday, where a blockage was found, so a stent was inserted. He feels very well and is in good spirits, he is hoping to go home today or tomorrow at the latest. Duilio will take a week or two to rest and recuperate and is then hoping to return to school. He wanted me to pass on how appreciative he and his family are, for all your thoughts, prayers and well wishes.

Playgroup Committee

Our first playground committee meeting is this Thursday, 25 February, at 10.00am in the staff room. If you have not sent in your name for the committee, but would like to join us, you are very welcome to attend.

P&F Executive Positions

We still need to fill two P&F executive positions:

- Treasurer
- Secretary

Please email the school on admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au to indicate your interest in this positions. The P&F is an important parent body that works closely with the school, to continue to build this amazing community we are all a part of. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm, in the staff room and it is great opportunity for you to meet other parents. The executive positions are open to all parents/guardians, those who are new to our school, as well as those who have been part of St Therese's for many years. If we cannot fill all the executive positions, we will need to consider other options for the P&F and how this vital body is run.

Student Leaders

Last Wednesday our Year 6 leaders were presented with their badges and acknowledged by the school community. Thank you Mr Smith and the Year 6 teachers for the lovely presentation.

Dates to Remember

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

19TH APR FIRST DAY OF TERM 2



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



Congratulations to our 2021 student leaders.

School Captains: Philippa A and George H

Student Council: Grace M, Poppy C, Chloe D, Ayla D, Nicholas B, Tyler B and Lucas A

Sport Captains:

- Gold (Cyril) – Lucinda P & James M
- Green (Walsh) – Marni B & Jack L
- Blue (Casey) – Dylan S & Nate B
- Red (Wright) – Taylah Y & Max T

These children, together with all our Year 6, have shown great leadership already this year. They have been committed and caring buddies to kindergarten and have really “stepped” out to be witnesses to the values of our school. I am so proud of you all!



Fundraising for the Guide Dog Association

From the 8-12 March, some of our Year 5 students are fundraising for the Guide Dog Association. The girls will be selling the following items at the Coolock Courtyard (canteen area) each lunch and recess between 8-12 March:

- Bracelets \$1.20
- Stress balls \$0.70
- Plants \$2.00
- Puppy Stickers \$0.50
- Poems \$1.00
- Lolly Bags \$1.80
- Pom-Poms \$1.00
- Lolly guessing competition

Thank you to Chloe M, Neelke B, Amelia B, Emily C & Olivia M, for your hard work for a very worthy cause.

Office of Safeguarding

I have attached two links that you might like to look at with your child, that are provided by the Office of Safeguarding. These provide a number of useful links that may help you and your child during times when they may be worried, anxious or scared. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are at all concerned about the welfare of your child.

For Years K-2: https://padlet.com/OfficeofSafeguarding/K_2

For Years 3-6: https://padlet.com/officeofsafeguardingmn/years3_6

Cyber safety for children: https://padlet.com/Office_of_Safeguarding/cybersafety_primary_school

Online safety for parents: https://padlet.com/Office_of_Safeguarding/cybersafety_parents

Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to the teachers for the parent teacher meetings last week and all the parents/guardians that were able to meet with their child's teacher. While we do formal meetings twice per year, please contact us via phone or email, to make an appointment with your child's teacher, if you have any concerns at any point through the year. This week our learning support teachers are meeting with parents/guardians of children on Personalised Learning Plans. Kindergarten parent teacher meetings will be held next week.

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal

RE News

Sacramental Program – There is good news regarding the **Sacramental Program for 2021...it is back on!!!** After what was deemed a ‘fallow year’ for much of Church life in 2020, including the suspension of the sacramental program, it is pleasing news that we can once again bring our young people deeper into the life of the Church through participation in the Sacraments. **Children from Year 3 through to Year 5 will be involved in this year's program** in order to catch up on last year. All going

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well, this should see the program return to its regular schedule in 2022. A separate note will be sent out later this week to relevant students with more comprehensive details and the opportunity for you to register your intent. Please email me directly luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au or phone the school if your child has missed previous opportunities to participate in the sacramental program and you wish them to enrol.

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>

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**”. Donation boxes went home last week, via the eldest child in each family. Please give generously this Lent & find more information at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/>
You can also view Bishop Bill’s reflection on Lent & Project Compassion at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F_1ZNQArzQ&feature=emb_title

Making Jesus Real (MJR) at St Therese’s – Please click on the following link which takes you directly to the parenting page of the Virtues Project, where you will find some great information and further resources on applying the language of virtues at home with your children: <https://virtuesproject.com/rparenting.html>

Luke Smith
Religious Coordinator

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 for demonstrating **RESPECT** by **displaying appropriate manners**:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT by displaying appropriate manners.					
KN	Isabella A	KW	Adelaide K	KL	Zaliyah W
	Mateo V		Elin W		Ella C
1N	Orlando	1W	Amelia M	1L	Mabel C
	Amelia G		Benjamin C		Roman A
2N	Phoebe B	2W	Christian B	2L	Leo G
	Oscar Y		Bellamy W		Lucy C
3N	Arlia C	3W	Zoey D	3L	Eamon S
	Charlie T		Anna O		Kyanna M
4N	Harvey L	4W	Maiya A	4L	Toby B
	Hope B		Archie D		Sophie M
5N	Lainey HB	5W	Eli H	5L	Sophia L
	Toby E		Robbie S		Marcus P
6N	George H	6W	Kai H	6L	James M
	Demetria H		Sophie K		Logan B

As we continue to focus upon the virtue of **Respect** this term, for the next fortnight we look closely at how being **obedient** is a way of displaying respect for others. When we encourage our children to be obedient to our requests at home, and at school, we are teaching them to respect us as parents and teachers but also building within them the capacity to respect others.

Janine Schneider
Coordinator

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School Community News

School Fees Payment Frequency Form

Please be advised that commencing 2021 school fees are invoiced for the full school year. Fee payers are encouraged to arrange for either weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments via Direct Debit by completing the form on the Catholic Development Fund website www.CDFmn.com.au. School fees are to be finalised by 30th November 2021.

Parents are asked to complete the school fees payment frequency form and return it the office as well as commencing their payments prior to 31st March 2021.

If you have any questions or require assistance working out regular payment amounts, please contact the office on 4957 4922.

Vicki McSpadden
Bursar

Playground fun at St Therese's...

Now that the construction of the Catherine McAuley Centre is complete, our playground is a hive of activity. The children are full of joy as they have extra space to play handball, practise their skipping skills and enjoy time with their friends. The covered space near our new canteen has meant children can spread out and play games under shelter. It is wonderful to see imaginative play in action, with our cubbies, sand pit, playground equipment and grassed area proving to be popular. There is even a rubix cube craze happening amongst some of our senior boys!



On Mondays and Tuesdays, the Learning Centre is open for those students who may want a quieter, social activity. On Mondays, students can play boardgames and chess. Those wanting to learn how to play chess are very welcome. On Tuesdays, students can enjoy craft activities such as origami. Primary students are to visit at lunch and Infants students at recess. See the program below;



Trish McNeil
Year 4



Playgroup Update

Welcome back to Playgroup 2021! Our first playgroup will take place this Friday 26th February, from 9:30-10:30am in the hall. As per the COVID guidelines discussed in last week's newsletter, playgroup is only open to parents/guardians of children enrolled at St Therese's, and only one parent/guardian per child may attend. Children can bring their own lunchbox and water, and for our first week, parents/guardians can bring their own individual morning tea and beverage - please bring reusable food and drink containers! Each week this year, our playgroup will have a different theme. This week, the theme is "All About Me", where we can get to know each other a bit better. For the rest of the term, our weekly themes will be:

Week 6 (5th March): Autumn

Week 7 (12th March): St Patrick's Day (Everyone is invited to wear something green)

Week 8 (19th March): Harmony Day (Everyone is invited to wear something orange)

Week 9 (26th March): Easter

If you have any questions or need any more information, don't hesitate to contact me on 0439 435 287. We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday!

Jo Kim

Playground coordinator



News from the Performing Arts Centre

The Mystery Music Table

What a great response we had from so many children across the school, telling me and others about what they have learnt about The Beatles. I hope you continue to chat and listen to their music. So many stories were of the children connecting with grandparents and their memories of being a teenager in the 60s. What a great way to connect generations together through music. One student gave me two pages of homework she had completed with her dad. Such great work.

Please find below the clues for our next table. Its inspiration comes from a comment made by a young man from Stage Three who challenged me to think about other music "legends". I questioned him about what he meant, and he could clearly articulate the kind of artists he was thinking of.

Have a look at the clues and see if you can make the link to "Female Music Legends". The clues are links to the following famous artists – Celine Dion, Kylie Minogue, Beyonce, Diana Ross, and some of my favourites – Adele, Kate Bush, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston. As I was doing the research for this table, it struck me just how many great soloists are out there. I would have liked to put so many more clues on the table.

Here are some suggestions on how you can engage in finding out about famous female soloists:

- ask your grown-ups at home about famous female singers, who were their favourites, do your grown-ups have their albums, did they ever get a chance to see them perform at a concert?
- look up the top 100 female artists, and if you're interested, look at artists outside of the pop genre.
- explore playlists of top female artists and think about what you like about their music, voices, and style of singing.
- choose an artist you like and try to learn how to sing one of their songs.

I have already had a few people within the school approach me about their favourite singers. One young lady from Stage Three told me how she knew a lot of Dolly Parton songs (she could even sing difficult passages of lyrics for me).

I wonder what you might discover this week. Have fun everyone and keep on listening to music.

What's happening in the Performing Arts Space

The Performing Arts Room to Year 5 and 6 students who would like to come and spend some time to get familiar with the ukuleles. The room will be open Thursday recess (starting week 5) for students who want to work on their ukulele skills.

Infants Drama Play Corner - we have created a drama corner at the back of our Performing Arts Room, with props and costumes ready for our infants students to explore. Students are encouraged to visit the room with friends to explore creative drama play (making up stories and plays using props and costumes as their inspiration). The room will be open Wednesday recess (starting week 6).

Sport

Another massive week of sport at St. Therese's has passed and we have another whirlwind week coming forward!

As you were aware last Friday saw some of our talented sportspeople partake in both Netball and Soccer Regional trials. Competition was tough and the weather was against all. Could you please join me in congratulating the following students who were successful in this and will progress to Diocesan trials:

Charlotte L - Netball
Hanna A, Nate B and Angus G - Football (soccer).

Could you further please join me in thanking Mrs Leanne Kepreotes who organised and convened the Central Region Netball trial. It is not easy job and takes much time to bring together. We sincerely thank you Leanne, your hard work and dedication very much appreciated by all.

You may recall that some weeks before saw our Regional Cricket trial and we congratulated Patrick D for successfully making it through, however I was not aware that another student had qualified as well. Please join me in congratulating Emily C who has also made it through to the Diocesan Cricket trial - well done Emily!

Diocesan Swimming is on this Thursday and we wish our competitors from St. Therese's all the very best! Mr Moore will be attending as the Team Manager and we thank him as well.

Joel Hartcher
Sports Coordinator

OOSH St Nicholas

Hello to everyone from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton

Last week we conducted our emergency evacuation and lock down drills. Overall the children and staff did really well but there is always room for improvement. This can be a new experience for many of our new kindergarten children but they are proving to be a very resilient group. The number of children attending OOSH is growing all the time with some mornings seeing more than 80 children and up to 120 on some afternoons. In light of this, last week we trialled splitting the group in to seniors and juniors with the seniors having afternoon tea and playing in the hall and the juniors in the OOSH room. This proved to work really well allowing the children easier access to afternoon tea and more room to play and relax. Please keep this in mind when you are collecting your children. If your child is at the hall it may take an extra few minutes for them to gather their bag and get back to the OOSH room.

Kind regards,
Christine Morgan, Nominated Supervisor, ph: 0455 099 594



Safety Communication



Social Services
Hunter-Manning



Catholic
Development Fund



Catholic
Schools Office



Office of
Safeguarding



Serious Traffic Management Concerns

Near Miss Incidents

There have been two serious near miss incidents reported to St Therese's Primary School, New Lambton. The first near miss occurred on 29th May 2020 and the second near miss occurred on 3rd February 2021.

Both these incidents occurred at the Bridges Road pedestrian crossing and resulted in near collisions with pedestrians attempting to cross at the pedestrian crossing. Traffic becomes congested as parents/carers are attempting to turn left into Burke Street to collect their children at the end of the school day.

Parents/carers are queuing in the left hand lane of Bridges Road waiting to turn left into Burke Street, quite often this queue extends across the pedestrian crossing as per the images below – this congestion results in other road users becoming frustrated, overtaking and not observing the traffic lights and pedestrians crossing.



Actions Taken

St Therese's Primary School has a staggered dismissal process in place to alleviate the congestion and gridlock on Bridges Road, however, parents/carers have disregarded the process which has resulted in the above near miss incidents. The school Traffic Management Plan has been provided to parents/carers and reminders are frequently publicised in the school newsletter. Police and Local Council have been engaged to monitor the area but this is not sustainable on a daily basis when school is operational.

Further Recommended Actions

Should an incident occur, the impact will have far reaching and long term effects on the school and community.

The Catholic Diocese Maitland Newcastle 'Safety & Wellness Team' are urging parents/carers to strictly adhere to the school Traffic Management Plan to keep the school community and other pedestrians safe from harm.

If the school is unable to maintain a safe process for the collection of children after school, it could lead to cancellation of this service (meaning that parents/carers would have to find a park for their car and walk to the school to collect their children).

Any parent/carer who has questions or concerns can discuss with Principal, Duilio Rufo.



• PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE •

Our beautiful library, sparkling and new
Is stacked with books just waiting for you.
We have tales of many sorts, of all different kinds
Ready to entertain your brilliant young minds,
Stories of wizardry, of sports and pacts,
Colourful books filled with grizzly facts.
Ninja Kids, Wimpy Kids, even Bad Guys
Filled with delights that will often surprise.
So, sign up today, come onboard with the fun
Join the PRC in 2021!!



The PRC is a state-wide program which encourages students to read a certain number 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 1st March to 20th August 2021. 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 in the library.

Children in Years 3-6 take ownership of their own reading. Any primary aged children wishing to complete the challenge will need to add their name to the list displayed in their classroom. They will then be provided with their username and password.

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 book lists 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



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

REGISTRATION VIA RUGBY XPLORER APP



BOYS & GIRLS XV's

UNDER 7s – UNDER 18s
U7s \$170
U8s-18s \$295
REGO INCLUDES:
SHIRT, SHORTS, SOCKS



INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/WJRFC
www.wanderersrugby.com.au/



WEE WANDERERS BOYS & GIRLS AGES 4-10

STARTING 26TH FEB @ No2 SPORTSGROUND
FROM 5PM TO 6PM

Wanderers Juniors Rugby Football Club is looking for kids participation for the 2021 season ahead.

For further information please contact as per below:

Phone – Ben [0438 883 203](tel:0438883203)

Email

– ben@reynoldsauctions.com.au
brad.clarke@wanderersrugby.com.au

Website www.wanderersrugby.com.au/players-registration.html

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



SCHOOL FEES PAYMENT FREQUENCY FORM

Parents/carers are asked to complete the School Fee Payment Frequency Form by 31 March, nominating how frequently they will pay school fees during the year.

Payment frequency options are available to suit parents/carers with the aim of having all fees paid by 30 November. Options for payment include BPAY, direct debit and credit card.

If paying via a direct debit arrangement please use the CDF Direct Debit Form – this is available for parents/carers to complete here: http://www.cdfmn.com.au/media/5203/32481-cdf_direct-debit-form_20210108.pdf

STUDENT NAME/S	YEAR GROUP
FEE PAYER NAME	
INTENDED PAYMENT METHOD (please tick one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct debit	
<input type="checkbox"/> BPAY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
INTENDED PAYMENT FREQUENCY (please tick one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	