



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents

As you know recently, I suffered a 'Heart Attack'. I don't recommend this experience to anyone, the pain is unbelievable. During the angiogram, a blockage was found in one of my arteries, and a stent was inserted to clear the blockage. The doctor found that all my other arteries were clear.

On visiting my doctor, he took me through the cardiology report and gave me the all clear, (with the condition that I start exercising and lose weight). He feels that I am 'fit' and, God willing, should last for a few more years. He has agreed that I am able to return to work. I still have a few specialist appointments to attend over the next few months.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the prayers, emails and texts that I received over the past few weeks. Your support and uplifting words were of great comfort me and I am extremely grateful to you for your ongoing support.

## World Women's Day

Yesterday we acknowledged the women in our lives; mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers and wives. This acknowledgment is part of a bigger picture, that being, how we treat women. It is vital that we accept women as equal in every sense of the word and that as a community, we address any wrong doing towards them. You would all be aware of my stance on the need to confront injustice and injustice perpetrated on women. It's something that we as a community are not very good at doing. Let's acknowledge any shortcomings that we have in this area, but better still, don't just talk about it do something to ensure that our women are safe and respected.

## Child Protection (Safeguarding)

St Therese's is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. All staff are constantly vigilant in the matter of child protection. It is important that we all understand that **Child protection or safeguarding as it is often referred to, is everyone's**

The Catholic Church in Australia, in May 2019 developed the **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS)** comprise 10 Standards, providing the framework for Catholic Church entities to build child-safe cultures and to advance the safety of children and vulnerable adults across the Catholic Church in Australia.

## Dates to Remember

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**

19<sup>TH</sup> APR **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**

11 MAY NAPLAN TESTING



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The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will be audited later this year to determine to what extent all entities in the Diocese have implemented these ten standards. St Therese's is ready for any such audit.

Part of that culture of continuous improvement is the mandatory professional learning that all staff undertake on a regular basis: induction of all new staff; annual refreshers and updates at the commencement of each school year; and a full-day refresher course every six years. Child protection is included as part of a school's annual compliance report mandated by the State government. An external audit of a school's child protection policy, procedures and practices occurs every six years as part of the School's COSI review process.

The policy and procedures in place here at St Therese's are available on request.

### **Visual and Creative Arts**

The area of Visual and Creative Arts is often seen as the poorer cousins of the academic subjects at schools. This is just not so. The Arts are an extremely important avenue of expression for our children and here at St Therese's we are once again focusing on this most important area for our children. Music is already a priority and is timetabled into the day and now we are also prioritising the areas of dance and movement and visual arts.

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Deb Petersen and Alex Toscano for the work they are doing in promoting the Arts in our schools. It was great to return this week and see the fabulous work that the children have been doing in Visual Arts under the guidance of Mrs Cristaudo, grandmother of the Ladmore children. And the unbelievable number of students who have opted to take part in the dance and aerobics programs being offered by Miss Toscano. What a great team we have here at St Therese's.

**Duilio Rufo**  
Principal

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

#### **Tour de Cure**

The "Tour de Cure" for 2021 is on its way, with all funds raised going towards doctors and scientists finding a cure for cancer. Todd Coulthard has two sons at St Therese's, Cooper (6W) and Lachlan (3N), and he is part of the riding team for this very important cause. If you would like to donate to "Tour de Cure" please follow the link: [www.donate.tourdecure.com.au](http://www.donate.tourdecure.com.au). The riders will go past St Therese's in the coming weeks, I will confirm the date as soon as possible.

#### **Guide Dogs Fundraiser**

Five very dedicated students in Year 5 – Chloe M, Neelke B, Amelia B, Olivia M & Emily C are running a fundraiser this week to raise money for the Guide Dogs Association. The girls will be at the Coolock Courtyard (near the canteen), selling handmade items such as:

- 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

Please support the girls and this cause, perhaps one day of the week, children could buy from this stall rather than visiting the canteen.

#### **Easter Egg Collection**

At the P&F last week, we discussed options for community outreach to the John Hunter Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House, rather than an Easter Egg Raffle. The John Hunter Children's Hospital, stated that over the Easter weekend, there are generally around 147 children admitted to hospital, with many more spending time in the paediatric Emergency Department. At Ronald McDonald house 16 families are currently in residence whilst their children are treated at JHH. Additionally Ronald McDonald House provides support for families who do not meet the criteria to reside at the house but

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still need to travel significant distances each day to be with their child in hospital. So, we would like to present hampers to the hospital and Ronald McDonald House, to bring some joy, at a time that can be especially difficult for sick children and their families, as well as the nurses, doctors and staff that look after them. We ask that the following items be donated, according to the year your child is in, by **Friday 19 March**, so we can prepare the hampers and deliver them in time for Easter.

- Kindergarten & Year 1 – packs of medium sized hollow eggs
- Year 2 & 3 – small hollow Easter bunnies
- Year 4 – packs of small solid Easter eggs
- Year 5 – tea or coffee e.g. 10 packs of Twinings Tea, Herbal Teas, coffee sachets
- Year 6 – packets of sweet biscuits

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

All grades have now concluded their parent teacher meetings (PT), and we thank staff and parents for meeting to set goals for each child. Our next PT Meetings will be held in Term 3. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the office on 4957 4922 or email your child's teacher, your query will be addressed by staff within 48 hours.

**Kaylene Maretich**  
**Assistant Principal**

### **RE News**

**Sacramental Program 2021** – Thank you for the overwhelming response from our families across Grades 3, 4 & 5, for the commitment you have shown towards your child's sacramental life. As Catholics, **the sacraments are special, sacred and symbolic rituals that lead us into a deeper awareness and relationship with God.** The sacraments are important because it is from this ever deepening relationship with God that we become all the more equipped, as Christians, to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ...to bring about the Kingdom of God and to spread the Good News. Here at St Therese's, we have many wonderful programs, spaces and initiatives that cater for so many aspects of your child's development; writing groups, maths groups, specialist teachers, music groups, art groups and a beautiful new learning centre, to name a few. Yet, we should never lose sight of the fact that, as a Catholic school, **"At the Heart of Everything is Jesus Christ"** (Diocesan Vision Statement). When we engage, ourselves and our children, with matters of spiritual development and faith-life, we reaffirm this vision as being true and at the centre of our lives. Thank you! Your commitment to this vision; for yourselves, your children and the entire world, encourages me and gives me strength in my own faith journey.



- More information will continue to be sent out to those families, who have indicated their intentions to participate, regarding specific dates and registration evenings.

**Parish News** – Please see the attached Parish Bulletin for all of the latest parish news including Mass times and information on the upcoming events of Holy Week.

**Ethically Sourced Easter Chocolate** – As we move through the season of Lent and begin to prepare for Easter, please give some consideration to the purchase of chocolate Easter eggs. The following webpage provides some sobering statistics to ponder before we rush out to make our purchases: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/>

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

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## **PBS – School Spirit Awards**

### **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** through obedience:

<b>School Spirit Award</b> for demonstrating RESPECT through obedience.					
<b>KN</b>	Darcy B	<b>KW</b>	Zara A	<b>KL</b>	Pippa W
	Mary W		Grace H		Archie S
<b>1N</b>	Zac H	<b>1W</b>	Harry D	<b>1L</b>	Maya C
	Amelia G		Abbey C		Sidney M
<b>2N</b>	Stella	<b>2W</b>	Isobel I	<b>2L</b>	Julien C
	Hugo H		Emilio S		Lennox F
<b>3N</b>	Annabel J	<b>3W</b>	Noah K	<b>3L</b>	Henry G
	Griffin C		Thomas T		Jasmyn M
<b>4N</b>	Ava B	<b>4W</b>	Hamish L	<b>4L</b>	Blythe P
	Sunny A		Nicholas B		Jack R
<b>5N</b>	Hugo D	<b>5W</b>	Isla-Grace B	<b>5L</b>	Bailey K
	Ruby D		Eli H		Neelke B
<b>6N</b>	Spencer M	<b>6W</b>	Philippa A	<b>6L</b>	Quinn T
	Oscar M		Isabella N		Nathan B

### **Principal Awards**

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

Angus G (6N)

**Date:** Friday 12th March

**Time:** 2:40pm

**ID:** 966 2726 0769

**P/W:** 520331

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

**Janine Schneider**

**Coordinator**

## **School Community News**

### **School Fees**

Thank you to those parents who have completed and returned the School fees payment frequency form. Parents are asked to have this to the office by 31.3.21.(see attachment to this newsletter) 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 you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact the office to organise a meeting with the Principal on 4957 4922.

For those families who have a Health Care Card, please ensure you contact the office to receive the correct paperwork for the tuition fee reduction by 31.3.21.

**Vicki McSpadden**

**Bursar**

### **NAPLAN**

Some dates for the calendar....11th May - Start of NAPLAN Testing

Year 3 and 5 students are involved in NAPLAN. Year 3 students will handwrite their writing test, while the Year 5 writing test will be online. Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy will all be online. Students will need earbuds/headphones during this testing time. More information to follow.

### **Harmony & Anti-Bullying Day**

In Week 8, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, St Therese's is celebrating **Harmony and Anti-Bullying Day**. Students are encouraged to wear something orange, or clothing from their cultural background, to acknowledge and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school. Teachers will be reinforcing the theme "Everyone Belongs." and "Kindness Always" and will be discussing and learning about the importance of acceptance and inclusivity.

**Therese Jackman** and **Samantha Anthony** - coordinators of Harmony/Anti-Bullying Day

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### **Canteen News**

Sugar Free Zooper Doopers are now available from the canteen. They can be ordered through Flexischools are over the counter like the other ice blocks we sell.

Many of the ice blocks we sell, such as Ice Monys, Nice n' Jooseys and slushies also contain no added sugar. They are fruit juice based.

**Belinda Palmer**  
**Canteen Supervisor**

### **For Sale**

Two summer uniforms in perfect condition, hardly worn. 2 for \$ 40 or separate \$ 20 each. Ph:0412 656 543

### **Sports News**

We are continuing with a very busy sports schedule. You may recall last Friday St Therese's sent 11 students to the Central Region Touch Football trial. Three students were successful in making it through to the Diocesan trials. Please join me in congratulating: Ella T, Xavier G and Patrick D! Well done to those three students and well done to all those that trialled.

This Friday is the Diocesan Cricket trial, and we wish Patrick D and Emily C all the best!

### **Donate Soccer boots**

Do you have any soccer boots laying around that are in a decent condition and not getting used?

DARA (Development and Relief Agency), a registered charity of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, operates to support vulnerable people in our local community.

Currently, DARA is collecting pre-loved soccer boots to donate to children from refugee backgrounds to encourage them to play soccer, create new friendships and engage community spirit.

You can drop your boots into the Admin office and we will pass them on.

**Joel Hartcher**  
**Sports Coordinator**

### **Art Centre**

#### **Artist Workshop with Jan Cristaudo**

Last week I had the pleasure of learning and creating with the Stage 3 Art Team under the guidance of abstract artist Mrs Jan Cristaudo. What a fantastic day it was with so much knowledge passed onto our young art students. Together we learnt about 'ownership' of our individual creations and how art can inspire and give us freedom to be ourselves. The students were extremely responsive and came away with an understanding of abstract art and how this technique could influence their final artwork that is due in June. My personal thanks to Jan as the day was productive, informative and most of all FUN! Jan will continue to work with these students and St Therese's to foster our love of Creative Arts across the school. Watch this space for updates on the student's major art works and future art workshops.



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**Deb Petersen**  
**Coordinator**



## News from the Classroom

### Gifted Education at St Therese's New Lambton

In 2017, an increased focus on Gifted Education began in the diocese with the implementation of the new Gifted Education K-12 Policy and Procedures documents for all schools. In the phases of implementation, secondary and associated primary schools work collaboratively with CSO support to strengthen their capacity to provide meaningful opportunities for students. These schools are known as Gifted Education Lead Schools (GELS) which include the following;

KOTARA SOUTH St James' Primary School  
LAMBTON St John's Primary School  
MEREWETHER BEACH Holy Family Primary School  
MEREWETHER St Joseph's Primary School  
NEW LAMBTON St Therese's Primary School  
ADAMSTOWN St Pius X High School  
ADAMSTOWN St Columba's Primary School  
WALLSEND St Patrick's Primary School



St Therese's Primary School is taking part in this initiative and will be working with schools from this cluster. Part of the focus of this new approach is to provide a framework to ensure that our schools provide learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students, enabling them to reach their full potential. Our school has an appointed Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) Patricia McNeil, who oversees the Gifted Education programmes at St Therese's in consultation and collaboration with the CSO and schools in our cluster.

### High Quality Programs and Differentiation

The staff at St Therese's are highly skilled in differentiating the curriculum to provide challenging and robust learning activities in all subject areas for gifted students. Students in Stage 2 and 3 participate in Extension Writing and Mathematics groups that compact the curriculum and promote critical and creative thinking. Real-world issues are investigated that link with curriculum outcomes. For example; the Year 6 Writing group is collaborating with Newcastle City Council in relation to the construction of a park at Nobby's Foreshore. Last year, students wrote a persuasive letter to the council suggesting a park at the foreshore be built. Subsequently, the writing group had a meeting with the council to provide feedback and ideas on the design of this project. Students will continue in 2021 to be part of this consultation process with the council. Another real-world issue being addressed by the writers is the problem of plastic in our community. Year 5 students will be writing a persuasive text to a major supermarket this term presenting the argument that plastic bags be banned from online delivery services.

Our new library houses two non-fiction books written and published by the 2020 Stage Writing groups. These texts are a biography of Catherine McAuley and a report on the Construction of the Catherine McAuley Centre. Students interviewed the project manager of this build, Mr Compton as part of their research for the book.



### Extension Mathematics

This year we are very excited to have a "home" in one of the breakout rooms in the Catherine McAuley Centre. The Stage 2 group is a mix of Year 3 & 4 students and the Stage 3 group is a mix of Year 5 & 6 students. The students in these groups, have consolidated their skills and understanding in Mathematics, and are working on real-world problem solving such as:

- Forensic Science Unit
- Mathematics of the Solar System
- Making Music through Mathematics



These students use mathematical concepts to explore these problems, identify patterns, then hypothesis solutions that are tested, again using their understanding of mathematics. New mathematical concepts are learned as they are needed, meaning maths is always relevant. Often students pose their own questions and work either independently or in small groups, allowing for student directed learning. In 2020, the Stage 3 group spent many weeks looking at linear relationships and exponential growth (high school concepts) as part of a unit on COVID and the spread of germs.

Each week we also do a lateral thinking puzzle. This is important for us to learn to think “out of the box”, question preconceived ideas and work as a team to think of all possibilities to a problem.



## **The Virtual Academy Program 2021**

Niah S, Madailein C, Wil S, Oisin M, Peter V, Philippa A and Elizabeth W all participate in the Virtual Academy Program. This specialised program which is unique in the CSO for Stage 3 gifted students is focussed on students exploring a real-world problem and providing solutions based on data collection and comprehensive research. Students present their research to a panel of experts from a wide range of industries in Term 4 2021. We look forward to seeing the work that these students produce.



### What we can do to promote Critical and Creative Thinking Skills?

We hear the terms critical and creative thinking used frequently in education today, but how do children develop these skills? One way to develop these skills is to use questioning techniques that encourage children to evaluate, analyse and apply what they have learnt to different contexts. Information is all around us today and can be easily accessed from a wide range of sources. However, it is the evaluation and analysis of this information that is crucial to developing critical thinking skills. Below are questioning prompts and descriptors that are useful with encouraging rich discussion at home when discussing topics to develop these vital skills. Happy conversing- you will be amazed at what the children can articulate!

### ANALYSING

analyze categorize classify compare	contrast debate deduct determine the factors	diagram differentiate dissect distinguish	examine infer specify
What are the parts or features of _____? Classify _____ according to _____. Outline/diagram/web/map _____.		How does ____ compare/contrast with ____? What evidence can you present for _____?	

### EVALUATING

appraise choose compare conclude	decide defend evaluate give your opinion	judge justify prioritize rank	rate select support value
Do you agree that _____? Explain. What do you think about _____? What is most important?		Prioritize _____ according to _____? How would you decide about _____? What criteria would you use to assess _____?	

### CREATING

change combine compose construct create design	find an unusual way formulate generate invent originate plan	predict pretend produce rearrange reconstruct reorganize	revise suggest suppose visualize write
What would you predict/infer from _____? What ideas can you add to _____? How would you create/design a new _____?		What solutions would you suggest for _____? What might happen if you combined _____ with _____?	



### **Playgroup Update**

Welcome back to Playgroup 2021! We had our first playgroup last Friday, and it was lovely to see old and new faces! Last week, our theme was "All About Me", and we got to know each other a bit with some playdough nature self-portraits and some other craft, and listened to the book "I Just Ate My Friend". This week, our theme is St Patrick's Day: we invite all our friends to wear green, and we will do some St Patrick's Day craft.

Just a reminder of how Playgroup will be running for now:

- Playgroup runs from 9:30am-10:30am in the school hall, and costs \$5 per family.
- Please bring a lunchbox and water bottle for your children, if you wish. Please try and bring reusable food and drink containers, and please take all rubbish and/or food packaging home with you.
- Playgroup is currently only open to children who have a sibling enrolled at St Therese's, or children enrolled to start next year, and only one adult per child may attend.



If you would like any extra information, contact me on 0439 435 287. See you on Friday!

**Jo Kim**  
**Playgroup Coordinator**

## 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](http://www.cdfmn.com.au/media/5203/32481-cdf_direct-debit-form_20210108.pdf)

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



**ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS**

2 DAYS ONLY - 11TH & 12TH MARCH

**20% OFF**  
**SCHOOLWEAR**  
& EVERYTHING ELSE



**Not the right size? - No worries!**

See our exchange and return policy on our website.

**SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE**

On the days of the event, Lowes will have measures in place to restrict customer numbers and movement throughout the store.

Lowes will be enforcing social distancing with marshalls wearing hi-vis vests on site. We ask for your support in limiting the number of people you take with you into the store.

Thank you for your support.

**DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY IN-STORE OR ONLINE  
& START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS. \*T&C'S APPLY.**

\*Offer ends midnight (AEST) 12/03/2021. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount. Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & schoolwear layby's. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store. No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.

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Following a recent survey, our parents and carers listed concerns about **Cybersafety** as one of the top three topics they would like more information about.

The **Federation of P & F Associations** has listened and is proud to offer a **FREE** online presentation specifically for parents and carers of students enrolled in Catholic School in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.



We are delighted to announce **BRETT LEE** will present specifically for us on **30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm**.

Former detective Brett Lee worked as a Queensland Police Officer for 22 years, 16 of which were as a detective in the field of Child Exploitation.

This unprecedented view of the online world enables Brett to view the cyber world through the eyes of a child yet stand back and process the experience with the mind of an adult.

Please join us for an evening with Brett from the comfort of your home.

**WHEN: TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**TIME: 6.30pm**

**COST: FREE**

**PLEASE NOTE - THIS PRESENTATION IS SUITABLE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ONLY**

**To register, please click the link below.**

<https://event.webinariam.com/register/177/4v4l8fz1>

This presentation will also be available **to those who register** for 5 days following the event.

**Please note: To register for this event, your details will be collected by "Internet Safe Education". Further details about Internet Safe Education can be found at:**

<https://internetsafeeducation.com/>