



Principal's Message

Dear Parents

COVID Update

As this fluid situation moves by the day I write to inform you that we will be conducting our Parent Teacher interviews via phone. These interviews will take place at the booked time and the teacher will call you on your mobile. If for some reason this is not going to suit please contact the Admin staff and we will endeavor to make other arrangements.

Personalised Planning Meetings (Week 3) and Parent/Teacher Meetings (Week 4) cannot be conducted onsite due to COVID restrictions. For this interview period, teachers will conduct all interviews that have been booked, via phone call. We will not be offering Zoom meetings, as not all parents have access to Zoom and Zoom connections can be temperamental, especially with variable sound and visual quality. We understand that while some parents may prefer Zoom, phone calls are currently more reliable and accessible to all families. I thank you in advance for your support, as we aim to maintain effective communication, in uncertain times.

We are still at Level 2 restrictions and as such no non-essential visitors are allowed on site and those who do attend the school must use the QR code displayed on both sets of school gates as well as present to the Admin office to be verified. Masks must be worn at all times, including drop off and pick up.

At this stage our 'big' events such as Grandparents Day and Father's Day breakfast are postponed and we will let your know when we might be able to hold these in the future.

Live Life to the Full Art Competition

Over the weekend our art students took part in an Art Exhibition at San Clemente. Congratulations to all involved and especially to **Ben L, Mae P and Athena W** who received Highly Commended Awards for their pieces.

School Photos

We are continuing with our booked dates for school photos at this stage. These will be conducted under "COVID safe" practices and family photos will be possible.

During these difficult times I would ask all in the St Therese's community to look out for each other and don't underestimate the value of a kind word.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dates to Remember

- 19-23 JUL FUNDRAISING – SECOND HAND BOOK SALE
- 21 JUL ASPIRE – YR 5 & 6 – CANCELLED
- 23 JUL SIMULTANEOUS READING TIME
- 28-29/ JUL SCHOOL PHOTOS
- DIO ATHLETICS
- 30 JUL FAMILY WINTER SLEEPOUT @ HOME
- 2 AUG PT INTERVIEWS
- 10 AUG ICAS WRITING
- 12 AUG ICAS DIGITAL TECH
- 16 AUG ICAS ENGLISH
- 18 AUG NEWCASTLE PERMANENT MATHS TEST
- 20 AUG TOUCH GALA DAY
- 23 AUG ICAS SCIENCE
- 25 AUG ICAS SPELLING

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



Assistant Principals Message

Interviews

Personalised Planning Meetings (Week 3) and Parent/Teacher Meetings (Week 4) cannot be conducted onsite due to COVID restrictions. For this interview period, teachers will conduct all interviews that have been booked, via phone call. We will not be offering Zoom meetings as well, as not all parents have access to Zoom and Zoom connections can be temperamental, especially with variable sound and visual quality. We understand that while some parents may prefer Zoom, phone calls are currently more reliable and accessible to all families. I thank you in advance for your support, as we aim to maintain effective communication, in uncertain times.

Miss Sunset – Adopt a Koala

Last term, students held a fundraiser to adopt a koala. The St Therese's community has adopted "Miss Sunset", please read the information provided by the Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, regarding Miss Sunset. Thank you again to the Mya T, Ada N, Sunny A & Ivy B for organising the colouring-in fundraiser, all the students that assisted them and the students that participated.

Zoom Links

While current COVID restrictions prevent parents/guardians and families from entering the school, unless on essential business, we will use Zoom for Assemblies and P&F Meetings. Parent feedback indicated that sound and visual quality could be very variable, so we have purchased a professional video camera to film the assemblies and the P&F Meetings will be conducted using our newer computers. The codes for the Assembly and P&F Meetings are below:

- Assembly – every Monday from 2:30pm Maretich, Kaylene is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting
 - <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/95397837293>
 - Password: 013805
- P&F – first Tuesday each month from 7:00pm. The next meeting will be 3 August 2021
 - <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92532631579>
 - Password: 841281

It was lovely to see 50 families on Zoom yesterday for our first Whole School Assembly for Term 3

Office of Safeguarding

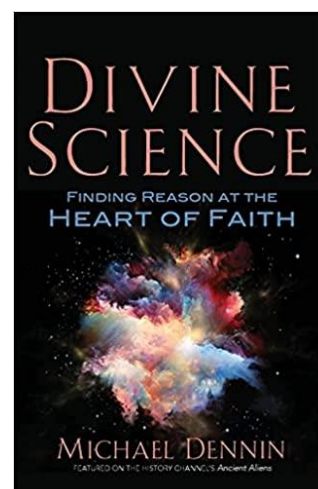
In the holidays, NSW celebrated the first *Working with Children Week* from 21-27 June. This week recognised the thousands of adults that contribute to a child's life, in education, sport, art and community organisations. We would like to thank all the volunteers at St Therese's who give your time so generously to our St Therese's community.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

RE News

Faith Formation – In last week's Newsletter I shared an overview of our staff faith formation day, '*Faith, Reason & Miracles*', with Professor Michael Dennin based upon his book shown below. If I had to summarise and share my own understandings from the day it would be that:

- **God = The Fullness of Reality** (those things *both seen and known [science] & unseen and mysterious [faith]*).
- This 'Fullness of Reality' is, at its very essence, good and **imbued with a Spirit of Love**.
- The Fullness of Reality is **always present to us**.
- **If we are open** to the Fullness of Reality **it has the power to continually transform us**.
- **The transformation of our lives IS THE MIRACLE!**





Vinnies Family Winter Sleepout – Last term you were all so generous in your support of the St Vincent de Paul Society's, '**Winter Appeal**'. Along with all of the food donations, we raised more than \$1000 which towards helping Vinnies take care of those families in need this winter. The continuing COVID situation along with soaring house prices, limited places to rent and cuts to JobSeeker, will put extreme financial pressure on families some of whom may find themselves homeless. As an act of solidarity with those people forced to sleep rough, we are inviting families to participate in the **Family Winter Sleepout @Home on Friday 30th July**. On Monday, Mrs Helene O'Neill came and spoke to our Year 5 students about this great initiative and to raise awareness of the plight of many people in our own

country. Some of those students then spoke to the school at our weekly assembly about participating in this event. We encourage you to support this initiative as a way of further educating your children about life's realities for the less-fortunate. If you choose to participate, it would be great if you could send in a photo of your family sleeping out in your backyard to be included in the school Newsletter for publication in Week 4.

Luke Smith,
Religious Education Coordinator

PBS – School Spirit Awards

Principal Awards

The following students will receive a Principal's Award at next week's School Assembly:

KW – Evie G, Adriana H, Rio S; **KL** – Eamon K, Ryan H; **1N** – Henry B; **1L** – Maya C, Gabriella S; **2N** – Frankie S, Marcus A; **2W** – Emilio S, Isobel I, Ben W, Maeve H, Aart M, Liam E, Lachlan S; **3N** – Blake K, Annabel R; **5N** – Ella F, Matisse M, Madailein C, Ryan C, Fletcher C; **6L** – Nathan B.

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

Date: Monday 26th July **Time:** 2:30pm **Venue:** School Hall
Parents and visitors are no longer able to attend school assemblies, however, if you would like to Zoom in, please use the following Zoom ID and password:

ID: 953 978 372 93 **P/W:** 013805

Janine Schneider
Primary Coordinator

School Community News

School Photos

Please be advised that our school photos will be on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th July.

The shoot code is 210804

Orders to be done **before** photo day to avoid late fees. Payments can be made with any Mastercard/Visa card.

See attached for the photo schedule.

Vicki McSpadden,
Bursar

Live Life to the Full

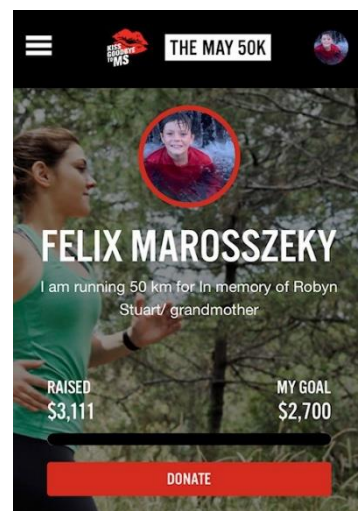
On the weekend the Live Life to the Full art exhibition was held (via zoom) and St Therese's was a standout school at the event. There were around 40 major artworks that had been submitted in the following categories, Stage 3, Stage 4, Stage 5 and Adult. Congratulations to our 13 artists, Jack L, Arley T, Zoe L, Buster F, Gabe W, Sara R, Marni B, Quinn T, Ben L, Mae P, Laura M, Athena W, Knox M who worked diligently to create their art pieces. A special mention also to **Ben L, Mae P and Athena W** who were **Highly Commended** from the judge. Families will get to view these masterpieces at the Lotus Art show in week 9 of this Term. Well done students you have made us very proud.

Deb Petersen, Coordinator



Champion Fundraiser

During May Felix M participated in the May50K to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis. Felix ran 2km's every morning at 6am and enjoyed a causal run of 5km on Sundays. His goal for the May50K was to raise \$500, but reached this goal overnight, so raised it to \$1000. Felix raised a total \$3011 with all efforts being donated in remembrance of his Grandmother Robyn. St Therese's commends Felix for his amazing work and dedication to help others in need. We are very proud of you!



Sports News

Term 3 Sports Day

Below are the sport days for Term 3 for all grades. Students wear their full school sport uniform on these days.

Kindergarten - Wednesday

Yr 1 - Tuesday (Wks 1 -4) Thursday (Wks 5-10)

Yr 2 - 2N Tuesday - 2W Wednesday - 2L Thursday

Yr 3 - Wednesday

Yr 4 - Thursday (Wks 1-4) Tuesday (Wks 5-10)

Yr 5 - Tuesday (Wks 1 -6) Thursday (Wks 7 -10)

Yr 6 - Thursday (Wks 1 -6) Tuesday (Wks 7-10)

Playgroup Update

Welcome back to Playgroup for Term 3! Playgroup is still on as usual every Friday from 9:30-10:30am in the school hall, however at present, all grown-ups must wear a mask at all times, and everyone must check in using the QR code. Last week, playgroup did some "All about Me" activities, and this week, we'll be having the Playgroup Olympics! Please join us on Friday for an Olympics obstacle course and some Olympics theme craft. Playgroup is a \$2 donation weekly donation. If you would like any further information, contact Jo on 0439 435 287, or join our St Therese's Playgroup Facebook group.



School Photo Roster 2021

Wednesday 28 July	
9:30	KN
9:40	KW
9:50	KL
10:00	1N
10:10	1W
10:20	1L
10:30	4N
10:40	4W
10:50	4L
11:00 – 12:00	Family Photos
12:30	Band Photo
Thursday 29 July	
8:30	Staff Photo
9:30	2N
9:40	2W
9:50	2L
10:00	3N
10:10	3W
10:20	3L
10:30	5N
10:40	5W
10:50	5L
11:00 – 12:00	Family Photos
12:30	Student Council Photo
12:40	Sport Captains Photo
12:50	Year 6 – whole groups photo
1:00	6N
1:10	6W
1:20	6L



Thank you so much for your 'adoption' of Miss Sunset!

Miss Sunset is a beautiful old local girl who was first encountered in 2010 as a young sub-adult after found sitting on a boat ramp at Sunset Beach, Soldiers Point. This was just the beginning of her long and varied rescue history as she insisted on hanging out in a very popular tourist spot with high traffic flow. A few years ago she suffered an injury to her left eye, leaving that eye blind with a distinctive opaque appearance.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made over the years to relocate her to a safer area, however the stubborn Miss Sunset had other ideas.

Sadly, this year, she was found up a tree suffering from a broken hip and although her hip has finished healing, it has healed out of proper alignment. She was also recently treated for Chlamydia.

She is now in a yard of her own and seems quite calm now that she is safe. We will be keeping a watchful eye on Miss Sunset's recovery. Thankfully she has regained some of her climbing ability and she has been moved into a beautiful and safe Sanctuary enclosure for her twilight years.

Your adoption of Miss Sunset is greatly appreciated and will help to pay for her care and the costs associated therewith. Adoptions such as yours could not be more appreciated.

Kind regards,

Kerri Rodley

Koala Adoptions Coordinator

Port Stephens Koala & Wildlife Preservation Society Ltd
Care. Education. Research.
www.portstephenskoalas.com.au

