



Principal's Message

Dear Parents

The first week back has gone extremely well, the children have settled into school and seem to be enjoying being back. Overall school is the right place for the children they feel safe and happy and are getting on with their life. The teachers were quick to get back into the routines and they are telling me that they are also relieved and happy to be back.

We cannot however be complacent there have been a number of schools that have already had to close for a few days for cleaning purposes. As I have said to staff let's not over stress what might be rather get on with living with Covid and if we do have to close because we get a case at school we will just deal with it.

My thanks to all the parents who have been vigilant and have taken their children to be tested, this is the best way to protect all of us from the virus.

As schools in Newcastle LGA are at Level 3+ restrictions we will need to continue with the procedures that we have in place for pick-up and drop-off. We continue to follow the Public Health Orders so as to make sure that we are all safe. If you have any questions please ring the school and we will try and answer them.

As always stay safe and be kind to yourself and to others, it costs nothing especially in these stressful times.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dates to Remember

2ND NOV P & F MEETING ZOOM

4TH NOV YR 5 LEADERSHIP DAY

**12 NOV KINDER ORIENTATION/
TRANSITION**

**19 NOV SOCKTOBER
LOTUS**

**2ND DEC DIO BASKBALL & TENNIS
TENNIS TRIALS**

6TH DEC SWIMMING CARNIVAL

15TH DEC YEAR 6 CLAP OUT

LAST DAY OF TERM

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



Assistant Principals Message

CogAT

Next week we will conduct the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), for all students in Kindergarten, as well as new enrolments that have not previously completed the CogAT at another Diocesan school. This assessment, looks at student achievement in three areas:

- Quantitative Reasoning – Mathematical problem solving and abstract reasoning
- Verbal Reasoning – use of language and relationship between words
- Nonverbal Reasoning – problem solving, visual and spatial reasoning

CogAT is one of the measures used across the Diocese to identify gifted and high achieving students. There is no need for students to be tutored or prepared for the CogAT, as it is designed to measure innate ability in students.

PAT

Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) will be completed by all students in Years 1-6 in Week 7, in Mathematics, Spelling and Reading. PAT is completed each year and looks at student growth across the year. The results from these tests assist us to organise flexible groups for 2022 and ensure that teaching and learning programs are targeted to the needs of all students. There is no need for students to “study” for PAT.

Flexible groups and extension Maths and Writing will be suspended for Week 6 to allow for the PAT to be completed.

Wellbeing Week

Week 6 is Wellbeing Week, due to COVID restrictions, we cannot have the usual activities across the school, as we cannot mix students across the school. This term, each grade will focus on wellbeing activities in their class, focusing on mindfulness, building friendships and resilience. At home, we encourage all families to turn off devices and avoid screen time, after 9 weeks of home learning, being away from our screens will be a very good thing. Each day next week, we encourage families to engage in the following activities that will also be done at school:

- Mindfulness Monday – on Monday I will send a link through Compass, to a mindfulness activity that you might like to use as a family
- “Take a Breath” Tuesday - on Tuesday I will send a link through Compass, to a meditation/yoga activity, that you might like to use as a family
- Wacky Wednesday – children can wear a wacky hairstyle, odd socks etc.
- “Time to Move” Thursday – challenge yourself to take a long walk, or walk somewhere you’ve never been. You may be surprised by some interesting places around your neighbourhood
- Flavour Friday – try something new to eat, it might be a restaurant/café you’ve always wanted to try, or a type of food you’ve never eaten. Mum & Dad could even have the night off cooking as an added bonus

There will be no homework set for Week 6.

P&F Meeting

The next P&F Meeting is today 2 November at 7:00pm. We are still required to hold the meeting online. The Zoom link is below:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92532631579>

Password: 841281

All parents/guardians are invited to attend.

Tell Them From Me Survey

As of today, 12% of our parent body has completed the *Tell Them From Me* survey, thank you to those who have do this. The survey has been extended till Friday 12 November. I encourage all parents/guardians to complete the survey, as it will help the school to set targets to improve students growth, parent involvement and satisfaction for 2022 and beyond. You can access the survey at <http://telltthemfromme.com/stnl>.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

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RE News

Mission Focus – Whilst the past months have been challenging for us all with lockdowns and home learning, we should never forget how hard things have been for many other communities both here and abroad.

Some of the people most effected by COVID-19 are those who had previously depended upon the aide and assistance of donations and external support. As a Catholic community, we remember the heart of our mission is to continue the work of Jesus Christ – reaching out to the poor, the needy and the vulnerable of the world. With this in mind, we invite you all – *as much as possible in your own current circumstances* – to get in behind our upcoming social justice initiatives here at St Therese's.

We still have a great deal to do in support of both the girls in Laos via our LOTUS fundraising and the children of Thailand through this year's Catholic Mission Socktober challenge.

We will have a special school-wide focus on these worthy mission causes over **Thursday 18th & Friday 19th November.**

In the meantime, if you wish to know more or make a donation to **our school 'Socktober' page**, use the link or QR Code below.

We still have a long way to go towards our school goal of \$2,000.



<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/StTheresesPrimarySchoolNewLambton>



Faith Matters – Some of you may have been reading the weekly 'Faith Matters' bulletin that has been put out each Monday during our period of Home Learning. This will continue to be distributed each Monday via Compass and/or email, so please refer to this for any further Faith formation prayers or reflections.

Please also remember that we will continue to offer an online **Prayer Liturgy & Assembly each Friday afternoon on Zoom at 2:30pm.**

We would love to see as many of our parents possible, reunite with us in this way!

ID: 665 1680 0085

Password: 004617

Luke Smith,
Religious Education Coordinator

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School Fees

Thank you to those families who have returned their 2022 school fee information sheet. If you do not have a child returning to St Therese's next year, there is no need to complete this for us (although you will need to give it to your high school). If you are yet to complete it, please email it to admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au asap.

For those parents with a student in year 6, I will shortly be emailing out a fee clearance if you have finalised your fees. For those Year 6 families who have not finalised their fees, please contact the school directly on 4957 4922 to organise your fee clearance for high school.

ASPIRE

Unfortunately, due to COVID, Aspire has been cancelled for this year. For those families who had already paid you will receive a credit on your account. For any families who have paid in full and are leaving the school at the end of this year, a refund will be organised. I will contact those families directly.

Vicki McSpadden
Bursar

School Community News

Canteen News

I'm in the process of developing the 2022 roster. If you can help in the canteen once a month for a few hours in the morning, please let me know.

If you are currently on the roster, I will assume you are OK to remain on your current day, so you don't need to do anything. Please let me know if you are no longer able to be on the roster or wish to change days. Also, if you are a year 6 parent and will no longer have children at the school next year, can you please remind me. Thanks so much.

Belinda (0447 509 968)
Canteen Supervisor

A reminder that ICAS Assessments are being attended in week 5 and 6 of Term 4.

Where: Catherine McCauley Centre (@ St Therese's School)

Time: 8am

Test and When:

Digital Technologies: Week 4 Thursday 28th October 2021:

English: Week 5: Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Spelling: Week 5: Thursday 4th November 2021

Science: Week 6: Tuesday 9th November 2021

Mathematics: Week 6: Wednesday 10th November

A Compass Pushout will remind parents the night before each Assessment.

Any queries contact:

Ms Therese Jackman
Primary Coordinator

Sports News

Recently the Jets and Greater Bank put out expressions of interest to schools to be part of a 4-week Jets Football Program. St. Therese's was fortunate enough to be one of the 20 schools chosen to participate! Our Year 6 students will complete this in their PE time over the coming weeks. The program concludes with a school Zoom from several of the Men's and Women's current Jet's players - can't wait!

Further, this is the final call for interested students for upcoming trials for: basketball, tennis, touch football and tennis from current Year 4 and 5 students. It is recommended that students already play at a representative level. If you have already forwarded your child's name you need not do it again; joel.hartcher@mn.catholic.edu.au

I will send information out about these sports once I receive it from Regional Convenors.

Joel Hartcher, PE Teacher





BOOK CLUB: The Issue 7 catalogue from Scholastic is now available and it's a bumper Christmas Edition! 40 pages of Christmas gifting ideas!

Only 53 DAYS until Christmas!!! Books make great stocking fillers and gifts for nieces, nephews and friends.

**Closing date for orders is next week
Wednesday 10th November.**

Parent pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as birthdays, Christmas, rewards etc.

LOOP has a **Gift Function** on the **Book Club Platform**. Do not miss out!

CASH orders can no longer be accepted through the school, however, orders will be delivered to the school.

REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.

Please note: Issue 6 orders are now closed.

P&F Gingerbread Houses 2021

Gingerbread house kits are for available to purchase. The kit includes icing, all house parts, baseboard, cellophane to wrap it up and ribbon. Flavours include traditional gingerbread, gluten free gingerbread and chocolate. They can be ordered via flexischools for \$35. Orders close 23 November. See the attached flyer in the newsletter for details.

Mango Fundraiser

Unfortunately the mango fundraiser could not go ahead this year as per the roadmap set out by Catholic Schools NSW as we all return from lockdown and negotiate the return to normal living with covid. All going well, this time next year we can return to this delicious summer fundraiser.

P & F Brick Fundraiser

Thank you to all the parents who purchased a family brick facing we sold 219 brick facings. The school logo and brick facings were supposed to be erected during the September school holidays but due to COVID restrictions this didn't happen but this has now been scheduled for January school holidays. The school logo tiles look fantastic and I can't wait to see it up on the lift shift with all your family names underneath.

Year 2 Science Experiments

In Science Year 2 have been investigating 'What happens when materials are combined?'. The students have explored many different types of materials through our inquiry-based learning unit, providing a hands-on approach to learning by exploring, investigating, conducting experiments, and collecting data from observations.

Last week, the students were asked what they think would happen when Oil, Water and Alka Seltzer were to combine? To investigate, they had a lot of fun whilst conducting their own Science experiment by making Lava Lamps using the oil, water, food colouring, glitter and alka seltzer. Look at the photos to see what happened!








Swimming Carnival

We have uploaded the Swimming Carnival onto Compass. For the first time, parents will be able to provide consent for the carnival and select the events your child/ren would like to enter via Compass. **Please note:** the carnival is only for children that will **turn 8 in 2022 and who can swim 50m competitively**. Due to COVID restrictions, no spectators will be permitted. Please follow the instructions below (these have also been uploaded to Compass)

To access the event, go through the following steps:

- Login to Compass on a PC, iPad etc. (you may not have easy access to the event on your mobile phone)
- Click on your child's "Profile" – this is a blue link under their photograph
- At the top of the screen click on the "App Launcher" icon  then "Events"
- You will see a blue link "+1 opt-in event" – click on this
 - The swimming Carnival date will be displayed under your child's photograph

Invited	Due 26/11/2021	\$0.00
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- Click on the ">" to take you to the event
- If your child will NOT be competing, the click " x

Decline Event"

- If your child WILL BE competing, click "Accept Event"
- Once you have accepted the event, you will be taken to the information page
 - Scroll down for the payment slip, that needs to be returned to the school office or via email to admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au. The cost of this event is \$15/child, the cost in Compass states "\$0.00", as the event cannot be made via Compass
 - Scroll down to Section 2 to enter any additional information regarding your child
 - You may add information already known by the school e.g. allergies, asthma etc.
 - Scroll to Section 3 to select all the events your child would like to enter on the day
- Scroll to Section 4 to provide consent for your child electronically, by entering your name and selecting the GREEN tab "Submit Consent"

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

St Theresa's P&F

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Take-home decorating kit

\$35 PER KIT

Includes: Gingerbread house kit, baseboard, piping bag with icing in it, cellophane and ribbon.

Flavours: Gingerbread, Gluten Free Gingerbread, Chocolate

ORDERS CLOSE TUES 23RD NOVEMBER 2021

www.flexischools.com.au

Delivery is expected no later than 10th December. The kits will then be distributed to the students to take home.

For additional product information, including nutritional details, you can visit our supplier; Gingerbread Folk at www.gingerbreadfolk.com.au



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