



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

The Holiday Period

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students and parents for the ongoing support that you all give to St Therese's school. It has been another hectic year and we hope that everything settles in 2023. My very best wishes to the following families who will be leaving St Therese's, Sidney and Amelia S, Caleb and Sienna A, Phoebe T, Ella M, Annabel J and Ryan H. I would like to wish you all a most happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.

Staffing 2023

At the end of the year we farewell a number of staff from St Therese's. Mrs Janine Schneider has been appointed Assistant Principal at Swansea. Mr Aldo Rufo is moving to Learning Support teacher at Singleton. Mrs Lisa Bechly will be leaving the Admin staff and Mrs Simone Goodsell will be leaving the Learning Centre. I wish all these staff the very best in their future endeavours. And finally our very best wishes to Mrs Monica Griffiths who is moving on to St James after many years as a valued member of our staff.

We will be welcoming a number of new staff in 2023. Mrs Kelly Menser will be job-sharing with Ms Helmers on 2W. Mrs Amy Karbowiak will be joining Mrs Shazmey Murray on 6L. We will also welcome back our Senior Office Administrator Mrs Vicki McSpadden. We welcome Mr Ben McCarthy who will be on 5W. We also welcome Mrs Alicia Broomham who will support our student counselling service along with Mrs Tamara Burns.

As a result of Mrs Schneider moving on we will be conducting interviews this week and hope to make an announcement shortly.

A heartfelt farewell to our Year 6 students who make their way on to high school and we hope that their days at St Therese's holds them in good stead.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dates to Remember

**16 DEC PRESENTATION DAY
LAST DAY FOR 2022**

**WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND
HOLY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE TRAVELS
FROM MR RUFO & ALL THE STAFF**

27/30 JAN STAFF ONLY DAYS

31 JAN FIRST DAY YRS 1 - 6

2 FEB FIRST DAY FOR KINDER

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

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admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au | www.newlambton.catholic.edu.au



RE News

Advent – Sunday (11th Dec.) marked the Third Sunday in the season of Advent, as we move ever closer to celebrating the birth of our Lord at Christmas. The reflection below, by Fr Michael Tate, titled: *The Right Question*, challenges us – like John the Baptist – to become constant seekers of the Truth so that, when others see us, they may see Christ living in us. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and may the peace, joy and love of Christ be upon you and your families during this festive season:

The Right Question -

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

Christmas Eve: Nativity, Choir & Mass – Thanks to those families who have contacted myself or Mrs Aumuller to indicate your child/ren will be available to participate as part of our school nativity and choir prior to the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. We will send out a final note later this week explaining the details before we break for school holidays.
luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au

Luke Smith,
RE Coordinator



School Community News

VOLUNTEERING

The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) has created an online application for the volunteering process. On the volunteer site, you can find the Volunteer Handbook, and coming soon are videos that go through the Volunteers Induction. Applying through the volunteer site, results in your application going straight to the CSO, then the school gets updates once these are cleared. If you already have your WWCC and completed a paper volunteer application, there is **NO** need for you to reapply. If you would like to volunteer, and have not yet completed an application, please follow the link to do this online <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>.

When you apply online, you will be notified whether you require a WWCC and/or police check. Please note it can take up to 6 weeks for your application to be approved. You now only need to apply once; further applications are only required if your circumstances change e.g. change in name etc WWCC expires. Please advise the school via email when you register online, and we will contact you when the clearance is received.

Payment options

We wish to advise that the preferred method of payment of fees, excursions or other items is either via credit card, BPAY or direct debit. Although Compass Pay is an option on the Compass platform, we request that this NOT be used due to technical difficulties with the system.

Please note that if at any time you need assistance with your fees or unsure about any of these payment methods, please contact our office.

Jenny Hurst/Lisa Bechly
Bursar

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



PBS

PBS and Principal Awards

This term we are focusing on the value of **Courage**. We congratulate the following children for receiving the PBS School Spirit Award for demonstrating **COURAGE** by showing integrity:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating COURAGE by showing integrity.					
KN	Penelope P	KW	Scout M	KL	Max J
	Taj V		Georgie L		Logan O
1N	Adelaide K			1L	Billie H
	August M				Michael M
2N	Abbey L	2W	Zara R	2L	Bella A
	Luke P		Riley L		Bastian T
3N	Lucia F	3W	Amelia H	3L	Jasper W
	Leo G		Eloise C		Iris S
4N	Annabel S	4W	Mackenzie H	4L	Hudson G
	Eloise D		Spencer P		Hamish M
5N	Lachlan M	5W	Poppy W	5L	Sage T
	Lola C		Spencer B		Casper H
6N	Anna G	6W		6L	Sophie G
	Shelby C				Justin P

Janine Schneider
Primary Coordinator

St Thereses Art Installation

Pictured below is a commissioned artwork by local artist and proud Gumbaynggirr man Evis Heath. This artwork depicts children dancing with the footprints in the background to acknowledge those who came before us. The bird with her wings spread to cover all beneath her is also depicted as a cross. We are very proud to display this work.



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



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Concert

Last week our choir performed a concert of Christmas favourites for the local St Vincent de Paul caring group. The children, under the direction of Trish Aumuller lifted their voices and the spirits of our guests. Mrs Loas was surprised by Mr Rufo with a "birthday bunch of good wishes".

Our deep thanks to the St Vincent de Paul group who have over many years helped and supported those in our community and inspired by their example our junior mini minnies.



Sport

Swimming Carnival 2022

Yesterday we held our St Therese's swimming carnival. All of the students had a wonderful day and showed terrific sportsmanship. We certainly do have some amazing swimmers at St Therese's! Students progressing to the Regional Swimming Carnival to be held on Monday 6th February 2023 will be notified today and permission notes will be sent home. Please return these notes by this Friday, 16th December.



Our Junior, 11 years and Senior boy and girl champions will be awarded a medal during our Award Assembly on Friday 16th December.



Year 4 Writing

Last week, Mr Rufo visited Year 4 and explained what was happening with the grassed area in our playground. We learnt about the science behind this process and how all the steps are carefully considered to ensure this area is reconstructed sustainably.

Students wrote their own newspaper reports:

New Grass For Kids!

by Louis Anderson

Your children may have told you that we are building a new sustainable grass field that will cost around two hundred thousand dollars! The process involves ripping up the old grass, spraying and killing the weeds and oxygenating the soil. Shrubs will be planted to suck up excess water. Pipes under the ground will be connected to pop up sprinklers. This water will come from a 500-litre tank. There will new cubby houses in the corner and lines of sand under the grass to absorb water. Trees next to the playground will provide shade for everyone.

Getting Green!

St Therese's is finally getting a new playground! It is great because everyone will have a new place to run, play, throw, catch and kick. It will cost at least \$200,000 to build this wonderful area that will hopefully be done by the first or second week of Term 1 2023. It will be a great feature to St Therese's school. Thankfully this will last about 12-15 years until we have to rebuild it again.

There are a lot of special features that will make the field a hundred times better. For example, the trees will provide shade for the children who are sitting on the sandstone blocks, which will be good on a hot summer's day. Everyone will appreciate how we will be able to play on the field more often due to the new watering system. There will be trenches dug from William Street to the play equipment. These trenches will be filled with sand and covered with a mesh and grass. The water will be absorbed into the sand and drained away. The trees surrounding the playground will absorb the water too. To have a nice, grassed play area gives us oxygen and makes the school look welcoming.

Written by Darcy L and Anna O

Arrendell
secondary education centre™

Summer Holiday School 17 - 20 Jan 2023
Bookings close 20 Dec 2022

Junior Students

- Selective Schools Workshop (yrs 5 & 6)
- Writing for Future Experts (yrs 6 - 8)
- Remedial Maths (yrs 3 - 8)

Senior Students

- Craft of Writing - practical preparation (yrs 10 - 12)
- Unseen Texts - HSC exam strategy & skills (yr 12)
- Practical Physics Workshop (yrs 10 - 12)
- Individual & Small Group Lessons (all yrs)
English, Maths and Sciences.


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experienced
teachers &
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45 years experience helping Hunter students achieve their goals

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A YEAR 6 PODCAST PRODUCTION.....

**RUNNING
OUT
OF
INK**

A PODCAST CREATED BY THE 2022 EXTENSION WRITING GROUP. THE MP3 FILE IS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. ENJOY OUR WRITING AND BANTER:)

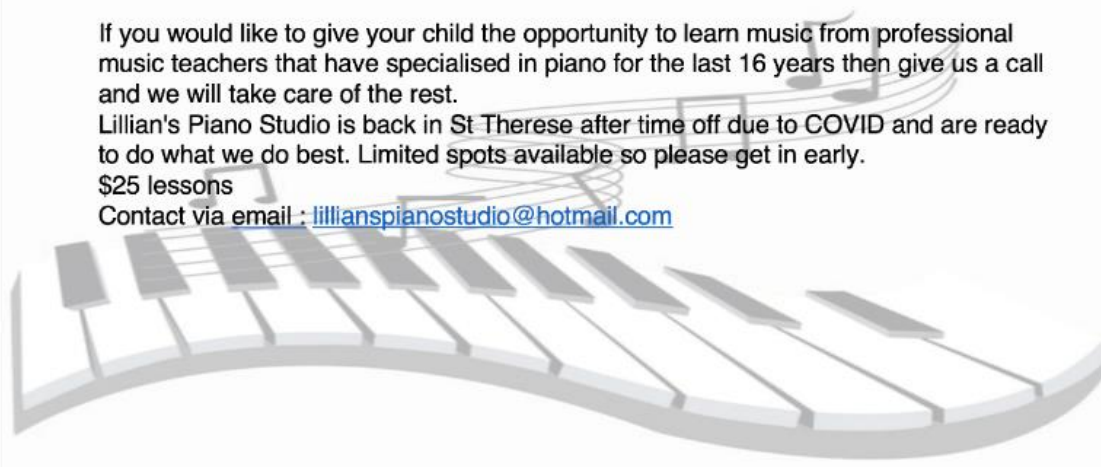
Professional Piano Lessons at School

If you would like to give your child the opportunity to learn music from professional music teachers that have specialised in piano for the last 16 years then give us a call and we will take care of the rest.

Lillian's Piano Studio is back in St Therese after time off due to COVID and are ready to do what we do best. Limited spots available so please get in early.

\$25 lessons

Contact via email : lillianspianostudio@hotmail.com



LOWES WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE... **NSW BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM**

What is covered by NSW back to school program? 3 x \$50 Vouchers

Eligible purchases are limited
to the following

School uniforms (K-12)

- Your complete school uniform
- Hats
- Socks
- Shoes
- Umbrellas
- Raincoats

Trade Schools (pathway program)

- High Vis Polo Tops and Shirts
- Industrial Pants and Shorts
- Steel Cap Boots
- Socks Protectors
- Safety Equipments

***T&Cs Apply. No returns, exchanges
in accordance with our returns policy**



STAY TUNED!