



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week I wrote about our endeavours to push forward with the introduction of greater parent engagement through the avenue of a PEG. Following that invitation I have had discussions with a number of parents who are interested in organising a range of activities including a disco and an art event.

Meeting schedule as follows:

Friday 17th March 2-3pm Catherine McAuley Centre

Tuesday 21st March 6-7pm Catherine McAuley Centre

Agenda:

Principal's Report

Teacher Reports

PEG initiatives

All are welcome.

Enrolments

I remind all parents to submit their enrolment applications for Kinder 2024. Also if you have any neighbours or friends who enquire about our community please ask them to contact the school.

Back Playground Update

The grass has taken well in this area and the upkeep has brought the grounds to their premium condition. We expect the children will have access to the back playground shortly. I am meeting with the landscape architect early next week and I will update you when I have the information.

Uniform

Just a reminder to parents that the wearing of makeup, including nail polish is not allowed. Please adhere to our uniform policy which can be found on our website.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dates to Remember

8 MAR – YEAR 6 INFO NIGHT ST PIUS

14 MAR – YEAR 6 INFO NIGHT ST PIUS

17 MAR – PEG 2PM

21 MAR - PEG 6PM

15-27 MAR - NAPLAN

20TH – 25TH MAR – PP MEETINGS K-YR 3

27 MAR – CROSS COUNTRY

3-6 APR – PP MEETINGS YRS 4 - 6

7 APR – HOLY THURSDAY – LAST DAY OF TERM 1

8 APR – GOOD FRIDAY

24 APR – PUPIL FREE – STAFF IN SERVICE

25 APR – ANZAC DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

26 APR – FIRST DAY TERM 2

8 MAY - MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST

10-12 MAY – YEAR 6 CAMP

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



Assistant Principal's Message

Happy Faith Community Week, hopefully this week you and your children can take some time to slow down and engage in some family fun time, as there will be no homework this week.

International Pi Day

Next Tuesday is Pi Day, named for the mathematical constant Pi (π). It is celebrated on 14 March, as these are the first three-digits of Pi 3.14. At school, we will be doing a number of Pi Day activities, to look at this beautiful number, as well as exciting real-world application of Mathematics. I know I am very excited about Pi Day.

Office of Safeguarding

I have attached a link from the eSafety commission, regarding uploading school pictures of your child(ren) to social media sites. While the link deals mainly with back-to-school photos, it contains information useful for parents/carers throughout the school year <https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/advice-parents-sharing-back-school-images-online>.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

RE News

Catholic Community Week – This week, Week 7, is now traditionally marked as Catholic Community Week each term here at St Therese's. This is a week where students are free from homework and we encourage families to connect through activities that you may not normally engage in due to the busyness of daily life, or simply enjoy spending time together. The family unit is an important and central component to the overall health and wellbeing of our lives and, from a faith perspective, the place where our faith is first taught to us. Therefore, it makes sense to take time to reflect on our family-lives, reconnect and spend time together building and strengthening our relationships because healthy families produce healthy individuals and together, we all then contribute to our wider community.

It is also rather timely to reflect on the meaning of the word 'catholic' and I deliberately choose to use the lower-case letter. The word catholic, as opposed to Catholicism (the religion), can be simply defined as: "including a wide variety of things; all-embracing." Synonyms such as, diverse, wide, broad or eclectic could also be applied. In this regard are we, within our families, "all-embracing" and truly living catholic lives? Are we able to find a Christ-like love for all our family members, especially at those times when it is most challenging? If we can do this and model for our children the way to follow Jesus' Gospel values of love, compassion, forgiveness, justice, peace and joy, then we are truly giving our children the greatest gift of all.



Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Second Sunday of Lent 4 & 5 March



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Luke Smith
RE Coordinator

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



School Community News

Volunteering

Throughout the year, we welcome all parents/carers to volunteer at the school. To volunteer, you must complete the volunteer's induction via the link <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/families-communities/volunteers/>. This process can take up to 6 weeks, so you are encouraged to complete this early.

External Providers

If your child will be seeing an external provider whilst at school (eg; Guitar lessons, speech pathology) you will need to complete the attached form and return it to the school asap.

School Fees

The annual school fee statement was emailed last week. When you receive your statement, please arrange for a regular Bpay, Direct Debit or an annual payment. Cash payments can be accepted at the administration office between 8.00am-3.30pm Monday to Friday or credit card payments can be taken over the phone on 4957 4922. You will find a direct debit form attached to the newsletter for your convenience. If you have a health care card (HCC), please complete the attached HCC discount form, and return it along with a copy of your HCC to admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au. Please avoid using the Compass pay option.

Additionally, any family experiencing financial difficulty is entitled to fee assistance and will be appropriately and confidentially supported to assess what is affordable for their family. Please email the Principal, Mr Duilio Rufo directly at duilio.rufo@mn.catholic.edu.au

Vicki McSpadden, Bursar

Canteen Roster

Wed 8/3	Thurs 9/3	Fri 10/3	Mon 13/3	Tues 14/3
Jacqui Osborn	Sally Farrell	Anna Perkins	Magda Ramsey	Lauren Ross
Connie Martinelli		Kareena Gupta		Blair Brownlee
		Laura Munroe		Charlene Price
				Katie Roberston

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** by being considerate of others:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT by obedience. (Please record 2 names per class)					
KN	Angus McNamara Bodi Somogyi	KW	Genevieve Lee Hannah Mozer	KL	Kaleila Crouch Otto Burns
1N	Bexley Grujevski Audrey Grant	1W	Harry Augensten Kai Dingle	1L	Penelope Puckeridge Massimo Patronaggio
		2W	Fox Clifford-Marsh Adriana Hristov	2L	Isabella Forster August McCafferty
3N	Abbey Leung Roman Apostolovski	3W	Ellie Jordan Tom Coyte	3L	Macy Gillies Archer Ross
4N	Samuel Stobbart Decan Oakley	4W	Bellamy Wallace Jasper White	4L	Milla Connors Violet Henderson
5N	Jack Trevitt Spencer Price	5W	Thomas Todorovski Jackson Riley	5L	Jasmine Majourovski Eamon Smith
6N	Ivy McMahon Tully Hobden	6W	Casper Hansen Earley Bodhi Moorgev	6L	Nicholas Blazevic Eden Henshaw

**Melissa Pyers,
Primary Coordinator**

**International Women's Day -
HIT 106.5**

To celebrate International Women's Day, Jess Farchione from Newcastle's HIT 106.5 visited St Therese's to interview 10 girls across Kindergarten to Year 6. The theme for this year's IWD is #EmbraceEquity and the focus is all around taking steps to make this world a more equitable (not just equal) place for girls. The girls of St Therese's were asked a range of questions based around what they would like to see in the future for girls, where they feel perhaps things aren't always equal and what their favourite thing about being a girl is.

Well done to Matilda D, Alice C, Isla P, Bonnie B, Zaliyah W, Maya J, Grace O'N, Zoe O, Coco F-K and Blythe P-M who represented St Therese's with their brilliant responses.

The segment will be aired on Wednesday 8th March, keep an ear out for your fellow St Therese's students.

Ellie Hunt
Year 2 Teacher



Getting to Know You

Howdy,

My name is Ben McCarthy and I am thrilled to be a part of our staff team at St Therese's.

Some things about me:

- I am a proud Bidjigal man.
- I have been teaching for 21 years including positions in the Brisbane Diocese, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, an Independent Catholic Girls School (5-12) and an Independent Anglican College (K-12)
- I was born in Taree and started school at St Joseph's, Bulahdelah (when I was in kindergarten there were only 4 people in my class!)
- I moved to Brisbane when I was still in Primary school and attended St Laurence's College where I was educated by the Christian Brothers in the Edmund Rice tradition.
- I have 4 sisters and 1 brother.
- In my spare time I like exploring the beach, the bush and the lake, mountain bike riding, gardening and chasing my kids around who play lots of sport.
- I love teaching all subjects; however, my favourite subjects are Mathematics, Art and PE.



I am looking forward to getting to know our families and the students here at St Therese's. I have been made very welcome so far!

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



Dance Flash Mob at St Therese's

St Therese students across the whole school are doing the Dance KLA this term. There is no better way to celebrate dance than to be a part of a community flash mob. The macarena rang over the PA system of the school, and students from far and wide raced over to be a part of this fun recess-time activity.

We keenly await the arrival of Week 7 when students get a chance to dance the Nutbush for the next Flash Mob community dance.



National Be Kind Day - KW



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA (ST THERESE'S) DAY





Authority Number

CDF School Account No.

DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST

Request to Debit Account

ON BEHALF OF _____ SCHOOL

YOUR DETAILS

Given name(s) Surname
 Work phone number Mobile phone number
 Address
 (Postcode)

REQUEST AND AUTHORITY TO DEBIT

Catholic Development Fund ID Number 025223 may debit and/or charge any amount through the Bulk Electronic Clearing System (BECS), from the account nominated on this form. Each debit or charge must be effected according to the Service Agreement.

DETAILS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Name and address of financial institution
 (Postcode)

PAYMENT DETAILS

School Name Suburb

Student Names

Given name(s) Surname
 (Postcode)

DETAILS OF ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED

Account in the name of:

BSB number

Account number

SIGNATURE(S)

Before signing this section, please read the Service Agreement on the reverse. Your signature below will indicate you accept the terms of the Service Agreement and confirm that the details on this form have been checked and are correct.

If a joint account, please have all account holders sign. If the account is held by a company secretary, please have one director and the company secretary each sign.

If you are signing for and on behalf of another person or entity, please state the capacity in which you sign, in the signature box below.

Amount \$
 Frequency (Monthly, fortnightly, Weekly)

First payment date
 Until further notice
 Final payment date

School Reference (OFFICE USE ONLY)

Signature 1 Date
 OR

Signature 2 Date
 OR

1318



Direct Debit Request Service Agreement

Definitions

account means the account held at your *financial institution* from which we are authorised to arrange for funds to be debited.

agreement means the Direct Debit Request Service Agreement between you and us, including the *direct debit request*.

business day means a day other than a Saturday or a Sunday or a listed public holiday.

debit day means the day that payment is due.

debit payment means a particular transaction where a debit is made, according to your *direct debit request*.

direct debit request means the *Direct Debit Request* between us and you.

us and we and our means the Catholic Development Fund.

you means the customer(s) who signed the *direct debit request*.

your financial institution is the financial institution where you hold the *account* that you have authorised us to arrange to debit.

1. Debiting your account

By signing a *direct debit request*, you have authorised us to arrange for funds to be debited from your *account* according to the *agreement* we have with you.

We will only arrange for funds to be debited from your *account*:

- as authorised in the *direct debit request*;

If the *debit day* falls on a day that is not a business day, we may direct your *financial institution* to debit your *account* on the following or previous business day. If you are unsure about which day your *account* has or will be debited, please check with your *financial institution*.

2. Changes by you

If you wish to stop or defer a debit payment you must write to us at least 12 business days before the next debit day. This notice should be given to us in the first instance.

3. Your obligations

It is your responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient clear funds available in your *account* to allow a debit payment to be made.

If there are insufficient clear funds available in your *account* to meet a *debit payment*:

- you or your *account* may be charged a fee and/or interest by your *financial institution*;
- you or your *account* may be charged a fee to reimburse us for charges we have incurred for the failed transaction;
- you must arrange for the payment to be made by another method or arrange for sufficient clear funds to be in your *account* within the next 7 days or another time we agree with you so that we can process the *debit payment*.

Please check your *account* statement to verify that the amounts debited from your *account* are correct.

4. Dispute

If you believe that there has been an error in debiting your *account* you should call us on 4979 1160 and confirm the details in writing with us as soon as possible so that we can resolve your query quickly.

5. Accounts

You should check:

- with your *financial institution* whether direct debiting is available from your *account* as direct debiting is not available on all accounts offered by financial institutions.
- your *account* details which you have provided to us are correct by checking them against a recent account statement; and
- with your *financial institution* before completing the *direct debit request* if you have any queries about how to complete the *direct debit request*.

Warning: if the account number you have quoted is incorrect, you may be charged a fee to reimburse our costs in correcting any deductions from:

- an account you do not have authority to operate; or
- an account you do not own.

6. Confidentiality

We will keep any information (including your *account* details) in your *direct debit request* confidential. We will make reasonable efforts to keep any such information that we have about you secure and to ensure that any of our employees or agents who have access to information about you do not make any unauthorised use, modification, reproduction, or disclosure of that information.

3. Declaration and consent for the contractor to provide the contracted service to my child

I, _____ am the responsible
Name of parent / guardian
adult making this application for a third-party contractor to provide a service in St Therese's
Primary School

By signing this document, I:

- State that I have used reasonable care to ascertain that the Contractor has the appropriate qualifications, licences, certifications and professional memberships necessary to provide the contracted service to my child, as listed in section 2.6 of this application.
- State that I have used reasonable care to ascertain that the Contractor holds public liability insurance.
- Consent for the Contractor to have unsupervised access to my child for the purposes of conducting the contracted service.

I confirm that I have advised the Contractor that:

- Prior to being given access to the School, the Contractor must show their current WWCC status, using the *Service NSW* application. Being unable or refusing to do so will result in the Contractor being refused entry.
- The Contractor will be required to complete a *Safeguarding Commitment for Contractors Working with the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle* form and submit it to the School.
- The contractor is granted access to the School for the singular purpose of providing my child the contracted service and should minimise contact with any other child.
- He/she will consult with my child's class teacher or the School leadership about any relevant information that the Contractor may have in relation to my child and will share information about my child.

Signed:

Date: _____

LOWES

2 DAY VIP EVENT

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MARCH 9TH & 10TH

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HEALTH CARE CARD / PENSION CARD CONCESSION APPLICATION

Health Care / Pension Card holders are eligible for a discount off the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate. Together with the family discount if applicable, this discount will not exceed 50% of the Diocesan Tuition Fees on the school fee account. All information will be treated with the strictest confidence, only the Principal and/or School Finance Officer have access to this application. If you require assistance in completing this application or require further financial assistance, please contact the Principal.

An Application for Health Care / Pension Card discount is to be submitted to each school your child/ren attend.

A new application for HCC/Pension Card Concession must be made at the beginning of each year.

- 1 Applicant Details : Applicant and the Cardholder must be in the same name as the person responsible for school fees. *NB: Health Care Card issued in the student's name is not valid for this concession.*

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Student's Name:

Student's Name:

Student's Name:

Year/Class:

Year/Class:

Year/Class:

- 2 Concession Entitlement: Which of the following concessions do you personally receive? Please tick and write your CRN number and expiry date.

☐

Health Care Card

CRN Number:

Exp Date:

OR

☐

Pensioner Card

CRN Number:

Exp Date:

3 Declaration

- I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information supplied in all parts of this application is correct and complete.
- I enclose a copy of my Health Care / Pension Card (signature required on the HCC / Pension card).
- I will notify the school office immediately if my circumstances change and I am no longer eligible a HCC/Pension cardholder.
- I understand the School requires a CCeS consent form to check my status with Centrelink.
- I understand that I am required to pay any other fees levied by the school, in full, unless I seek additional financial assistance with the Principal. I will advise the School if this assistance required.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Office Use	Tick	Family Discount Applied (%)	Eligible HCC/PCC Discount (%)
CCeS Consent Form checked by school:			

