



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

I'd like to congratulate all the children in years 3 and 5 for the great effort they have put into their NAPLAN test. I want to reaffirm with parents that the NAPLAN test is a diagnostic test designed to see what child can't do, rather than what they can do. In other words the results of the tests are used so that the teacher can better address the learning needs of the children. This year the test was brought forward from the end of May to March so that the results could be given to teachers earlier.

This week also sees the beginning of PP (Personalised Planning) meetings. These meetings are designed for parents to have an opportunity to talk directly to learning support and their child's classroom teacher around how to best address the needs of their children. My thanks to the parents and staff for making themselves available. This is only offered to children that currently access our Learning Support services.

### PEG Meeting

Last Friday we held our first PEG (Parent Engagement Group) meeting for the year. My thanks to the 20 parents who made the time to come and speak about how, as a school, we can better address their children's needs. At the meeting I spoke about the school's strategic plan for the next three years and parents spoke about what they feel would be beneficial for their children and the school. The main topics of conversation were: -

- Sport, parents wanting greater participation, not just representative sport.
- Swimming carnival, how can this be inclusive of all the children
- Wellbeing, how can we work together to ensure our children's wellbeing is at the forefront of what we do
- Fundraising ideas
- Ideas around creative arts

This Tuesday evening from 6-7pm the second round of PEG meetings will be held in the Catherine McAuley Centre. All parents are welcome to attend. The agenda will be the same as the Friday meeting last week - strategic plan followed by opportunities for parents to talk about what they see as important topics for our school.

## Dates to Remember

**21 MAR - PEG 6PM**

**21 MAR - HARMONY DAY**

**15-27 MAR - NAPLAN**

**20<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> MAR - PP MEETINGS K-YR 3**

**24 MAR - MISSION DAY-OUT OF UNIFORM- GOLD COIN DONATION**

**27 MAR - CROSS COUNTRY**

**3-6 APR - PP MEETINGS YRS 4 - 6**

**6 APR - STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EASTER HAT PARADE**

**6 APR - HOLY THURSDAY - LAST DAY OF**

**TERM 1**

**7 APR - GOOD FRIDAY**

**24 APR - PUPIL FREE - STAFF IN SERVICE**

**25 APR - ANZAC DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

**26 APR - FIRST DAY TERM 2**

**28 APR - ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

**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.*



### Back field

I have had a long conversation with the landscape architects and the following timeline has been given as a handover of the back fields. The children will be super excited and I will be able to sleep at night!

- **Tuesday, 21st March'23** - Mow field to achieve height suitable for drainage install and top dressing
- **Wednesday, 22nd March'23 until Friday, 31st March'23** - fertilisation, installation of lateral drainage lines and top dressing.
- **Saturday, 1st April'23** - re-establishment and maintenance of turf
- **Wednesday, 26th April** - field handed back to school

### Welcome back

This week we welcome back Mrs Jackman who has been on leave and Mrs Keptotes who has also been away unwell. We welcome Mrs Parker back this week also after her operation.

### Cross country

Reminder that the cross country will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at Regent Park. More details will be sent out via Compass by Mr Hartcher later in the week.

### Harmony Day

Thank you to all staff and students for their enthusiasm today – Harmony Day. Especially Mrs Warby for her school decorations and organisation.

**Duilio Rufo**  
Principal

## Assistant Principal's Message

### Easter Celebrations

On **Thursday 6 April**, we will have celebrate Holy Thursday with the following:

- All classes will be led through the Stations of the Cross, by Mr Smith
- We will hold an [Easter Hat Parade, from 2:15pm in the Hall](#)
  - The children will make their Easter hats at school, in a craft session on **Friday 31 March**

We invite all parents/carers and families to join us on Holy Thursday for both the Stations of the Cross and Easter Hat Parade. Mr Smith will send out the time for Stations of the Cross in the Newsletter next week.

### NAPLAN

Majority of the NAPLAN tests have now been completed. This week we will finalise any catch ups for children away last week. I thank all the students for their hard work in completing the tests, and all the staff involved in the organisation and supervision of the NAPLAN.

### Easter Collection

At St Therese's, we are focused on service and outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves. The is particularly important during Lent, as we reach out to assist others is a form of almsgiving. So, rather than having an Easter Raffle, we ask families to donate items that will be used to create hampers for the staff and residents of St John's Catholic Nursing Home in New Lambton and Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House is a residential home for families that have critically sick children at the John Hunter Hospital, with some children hospitalised for many weeks even months. These families live significant distances from the John Hunter Hospital, and often other siblings live at Ronald McDonald House also, which can put great strain on families, financially, socially and emotionally. So, we would like to present hampers to these families, and staff, as well as the residents and staff of St John's Nursing Home, to bring some joy during the Easter season. We ask that the following items be donated, according to the year your child is in, by **Friday 31 March**, so we can prepare the hampers and deliver them in time for Easter.

- Kindergarten & Year 1 – a pack of medium sized hollow eggs
- Year 2 – “Elegant Rabbit” style Easter bunnies
- Year 3 - pack of small solid Easter eggs
- Year 4 – 10 packs of tea or coffee e.g. packs of Twinning’s Tea, Herbal Teas, coffee sachets etc.
- Year 5 – packet of savoury biscuits
- Year 6 – packet of sweet biscuits

**Kaylene Maretich, Assistant Principal**

## **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.

### **School Fees**

The annual school fee statements have been emailed. 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](mailto: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](mailto:duilio.rufo@mn.catholic.edu.au)

**Vicki McSpadden, Bursar**

## **Religious Education**

**Mission Day – This Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**, is Mission Day for Term 1. Each term, our Mission Days allow the children to come out-of-uniform for a gold coin donation which goes towards our focus charity for the term – currently, Project Compassion. The day is also more than just giving money and wearing clothes of their choice. We aim for our Mission Days to be an opportunity for students to reflect upon the deeper meaning of why we have such days. As a Catholic community, with Jesus Christ at the heart of everything, we do these things as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus looking out for and taking care of the poor and marginalised in our world. The children will spend some time on this day learning about the depth and importance behind such days. Maybe this week could be a great opportunity to have this conversation around the dinner table with your children.







### Fourth Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March



Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg.

Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.



#### 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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Phan Tan Lam/Caritas Australia

## Sport

**School Athletics Carnival – The first Friday of Term 2 (28<sup>th</sup> April)**, will be our whole-school Athletics Carnival at the Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track, Newcastle West. This year, we will return to a whole-school event with all students, K-6 participating on the day. This promises to be a great way to build community spirit. Most students will be transported both to-and-from the track inside regular school hours. The day, however, will run as two separate events:

- Those students in Kindergarten and Year 1 (*along with a small number of Yr 2 students who do not turn 8 in 2023*) will attend and participate in a fun-day of races, relays and rotational tabloid events. These same students, after the completion of all activities, will return to school on buses around 12:30pm.
- All other students who turn 8, or older, in the 2023 calendar year will participate in the competitive version of events as they will be eligible to continue through to Regional level should they be successful. The events that these students will participate in on the day are: 100m (**age-based**), 200m, shot-put and long-jump (all **category-based** events).

To explain the above, for example, an 8yr old girl will compete in the 100m race against ONLY other 8yr old girls (*there may be several heats, so results will be determined based upon times*). The same 8yr old girl will compete in the Junior Girls (8-10yr girls) for the category-based events of 200m, shot-put and long-jump.

The categories are as follows: Junior Girls & Junior Boys (8-10yrs), 11yr Girls & 11yr Boys, and Senior Girls & Senior Boys (12-13yrs). These are the same categories that are in existence at the higher levels of competition (*Regional, Diocesan, State, etc.*).

**Optional Events:** Both the 800m & 1500m races are optional events (category-based also), with the 800m races commencing at 9.00am. The children who wish to enter this event will need to arrive

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**at the track by 8:45am via private transport** to meet with myself in preparation for marshalling. The 1500m race will be the final event of the day. There will be a Compass event created and sent out soon regarding nominations for these. When this occurs, please be aware of the final nomination date as no late entries will be able to be submitted.

**Parent Helpers:** Please email me directly ([luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au)) if you can help on the day – please list your child's name/year group so I know which of the two events to place you at during the day.

## **Couch's Corner**

### **Cross Country:**

Parents and Carers, as the Cross Country Trial is only just around the corner, I just to make you aware of a few things:

1. 8/9s race together in one age category as do 12/13s.
2. Races will be called once the first 6 children finish.
3. To qualify for Diocesan, your child must not only place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, but also meet their respective age required time. These times can be found on the Catholic Schools Sport NSW website: <https://csnsw.sport/maitland-newcastle/primary/sport/cross-country>
4. It would be great if we could have three more parent volunteers. If you are available morning of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and have completed the CSO volunteer information, please email me directly: [joel.hartcher@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:joel.hartcher@mn.catholic.edu.au). Your help is greatly appreciated.
5. For those wanting to watch and view your child running, I aim to have a 'rough' timeline out by Friday afternoon. Suffice to say, if you leave Monday morning free, all should be well.

### **St. Therese's Sporting Stars:**

With the recent conclusion of Winter Sports Trials, there is no better time to name our very successful St. Therese's Senior Sports Superstars. Competition has been incredibly high this year and St. Therese's has had one of the most successful years yet!

**Netball:** the following students attended the netball Regional Trial; Miah F, Eden H, Indigo H, Jasmyn M and Lily P. Miah made it through and attended the Diocesan Trial also.

**Football (Soccer):** the following students attended the Regional Trial; Hope B, Vincent C, Casper H-E, Noah K, Ryder P, Mia S, Ruby T and Thomas T. Mia not only further made it through to the Diocesan Trial, but further through onto Polding!

**Hockey:** hockey progresses straight through to a Diocesan Trial, not only did Noah J attend this, he was successful and is now through to Polding!

**Rugby League:** like hockey, League progresses straight through to a Diocesan Trial the following students attended; Brock H, Chandler D, Hudson G, Oliver R, Archie C and Luca R. Both Luca and Chandler were successful at this trial and are now off to Polding!

**AFL:** also progresses straight through to a Diocesan Trial, the following students attended; Spencer P and Hudson G.

**Touch Football:** the following students attended the Regional Trial; Liam B, Archie C, Chandler D, Miah F, Tully H, Indigo H, Zoe O, Lily P, Oliver R and Ruby T. There was great success at this trial with Chandler, Miah, Zoe and Archie all making it through to Diocesan Trials. Further, Chandler, Archie and Miah have made it through to Polding!

**Tennis:** earlier in the year trials concluded, Toby B not only made it through from Diocesan to Polding trials, only narrowly missing State!!

A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Kepreotes who organises and runs our Regional Netball Trial. This is a huge endeavour to organise and Leanne does this with much skill, patience and commitment.

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



Congratulations to all our very talented and successful Senior sports stars at St. Therese's.

**Coach Hartcher**

## Canteen

### Canteen Roster

Wed 22/3	Thurs 23/3	Fri 24/3	Mon 27/3	Tues 28/3
Kim Jordan	Sarah Bagnall	Sally Curzi	Jenni Trummel	Alison Sharman
Mel Kilkeary		Kelly Robertson	Pia Clifford Marsh	Annabel O'Neill
		Sarah Hughes		Sarah White

## PBS – School Spirit Awards

### School Spirit Awards

This term we have focused 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 being considerate of others					
<b>KN</b>	Augusta K	<b>KW</b>	Eleanor B	<b>KL</b>	Olive G
	Chloe H		Harry C		Lucas B
<b>1N</b>	Imogene L	<b>1W</b>	Mitchell L	<b>1L</b>	Lachlan A
	Lucas M		Leo		Maddison B
		<b>2W</b>	Emily R	<b>2L</b>	Maggie K
			Grace H		Nate R
<b>3N</b>	Jacob E	<b>3W</b>	Paige M	<b>3L</b>	Gabriella S
	Elana B		Eden C		Isaac S
<b>4N</b>	Alexi A	<b>4W</b>	Georgie A	<b>4L</b>	Lucy C
	Mason S		Lucia F		Audrey J
<b>5N</b>	Oliver S	<b>5W</b>	Jake M	<b>5L</b>	Miller C
	Izzy B		CJ P		Anna O
<b>6N</b>	Hope B	<b>6W</b>	Gracie B	<b>6L</b>	Olivia L
	Ollie M		Mia S		Mackenzie P

For the next fortnight, we will be focusing on showing Respect through self-discipline. Self-discipline is like a muscle: the more you work on developing it and using it, the stronger it will become. However, it's just as important not to start out with goals that are too ambitious. At St Therese's we encourage our students to set small goals and increase the level of challenge slowly over time. The more you practice, the better you'll become. We can develop self-discipline by following these five steps:

1. Set goals
2. Find your motivation
3. Identify your obstacles
4. Replace old or bad habits with new ones
5. Monitor and self-reflect on your progress and your feelings about working towards your goals

### **Principal Awards**

The following students will receive a Principal's Award at the Week 10 School Assembly:  
Emily S and Henry B (3W)

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

**Melissa Pyers,**  
Primary Coordinator

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





**Yr 6 Election Day Cake Stall**

This Saturday the 25 March 2023 the school will be a venue for the public to vote in the State Election. Our Year 6 students will be hosting a cake stall on the day to fundraise money for their year book and end of year activities. There will be lots of yummy home made cakes and treats made by the students and their families, available to buy on the day. The stall will open at 8am and be on sale until 12noon or until sold out. Hope to see you there!

# ST THERESE'S ELECTION DAY CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER

**8AM UNTIL SOLD OUT**














**CAKES, LOLLIES, CHIPS  
ALL THE GOODIES!**

**SATURDAY 25TH MARCH**

## St Nicholas OOSH – Vacation Care

St Nicholas OOSH Autumn Vacation Care program is below for the upcoming school holidays.  
St Nicholas OOSH bookings are done online and further information is attached to this newsletter.

 <b>St Nicholas OOSH</b> <small>DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE</small>		<b>VACATION CARE: AUTUMN 2023</b>		
<b>ST NICHOLAS OOSH – NEW LAMBTON</b>				
<b>TELEPHONE:</b> 0455 099 594 <b>EMAIL:</b> oosh-newlambton@stnicholasmn.org.au				
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> <b>Service Closed</b>	<b>Day Camp \$67</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Incursion \$77</b> <b>(60 children)</b>	<b>Day Camp \$67</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Excursion \$87</b> <b>(60 children)</b>
	<b>Paint and Sip</b> Come and sip on punch whilst letting your inner Van Gough shine	<b>Hip Hop Workshop</b> Put on your dancing shoes and pop & lock into OOSH for our Hip Hop Workshop	<b>STEM DAY</b> Let's challenge our minds and develop our problem solving and creativity skills through our exciting STEM activities	<b>Niagra Park Sports Park</b> Channel your inner sportsperson and try your luck with a range of indoor sports
				
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>
<b>Day Camp \$67</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Excursion \$87</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Day Camp \$67</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Day Camp \$67</b> <b>(75 children)</b>	<b>Incursion \$77</b> <b>(60 children)</b>
<b>ART ATTACK</b> Whack, Splat. Come and attack our art and craft activities with all the creativity and imagination you've got, we can't see the visions you bring to life.	<b>Red Alert Laser Tag</b> Zip, Zap, Zam. With a range of group games and free for all's, build your accuracy, sneaking skills and strategies at Red Alert.	<b>Wellness / PJ Day</b> Come in your comfiest PJ's and fluffiest slippers to relax and enjoy a day of self-care and pampering activities.	<b>Super Hero/ Villains Wheels Day</b> Are you team Marvel, DC or even a Disney prince/ princess? Bring your superhero powers, favourite wheels and your helmet to enjoy the day.	<b>Bop Till You Drop- Disco and Harry Potter Day</b> Dress up as your favourite witch or wizard and dance the day away.
				
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>				
<b>Day Camp \$70</b> <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b> <b>(75 children)</b>				
<b>Ninja Circuit</b> Use your natural ability to move like a ghost at our Ninja Day.				
				







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12S – BORN  
IN 2011**



# WE WANT YOU!

**WANDERERS  
JUNIOR RUGBY**

We have places available to  
join our Under 12s team



## 2023 Registrations are Open.

The Season Start is almost upon us:

Bring a friend, everyone is Welcome.

Training is Wednesday Nights – 5:30pm Waratah Oval

Register with the Rugby Xplorer app or [myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au](https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au)

Website: [thewaratahsrugbyunionclub.com](https://thewaratahsrugbyunionclub.com)

Email: [thewaratahsjuniorrugby@gmail.com](mailto:thewaratahsjuniorrugby@gmail.com)

Our Mission: To provide the BEST Rugby Experience for Players, Families and Officials.