



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

Dance and Aerobics Groups

On Sunday our girls performed their routines at the St Pius High School Hall and what an exciting and fantastic day for the girls. My sincere thanks to Ms Toscano, the parents and to the girls for their outstanding efforts and we are delighted to announce a "clean sweep" as all teams are progressing to the next level of competition to be held in Sydney in June.

Catholic Schools Week

Yesterday the school held a liturgy and open day for the school children and parents. Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity for the Catholic Community to celebrate catholic schools and the impact that they have had over many years on growing Catholic children. Our children are a product of the good work that parents and schools do as a team, and we should celebrate our children's successes.

Here at St Therese's, we not only follow our Catholic traditions but as we were first staffed by the Sisters of Mercy nearly 100 years ago (1925) we focus our values and understanding of our world based on the Mercy Charism. We focus on those values of compassion, justice, respect, hospitality, service, and courage.

Catholic Schools Week reminds us of all that is good about our faith and focuses us on responding to a life filled with love and compassion in Jesus Christ.

Cyber Safety

Often time I am asked to respond to Childrens' behaviour online. Cyber safety has several aspects to it. The three most 'scary' aspects in my opinion for parents are firstly making sure our children are not exposed to grooming, secondly that our children are not exposed to bullying, and thirdly how do we ensure that our children are not exposed to pornography.

There are numerous websites that you might like to explore that can assist you in the areas mentioned above:- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>
<https://cybersafetyproject.com.au/> (This is the program running in our school K-6). We will have people from this organisation visiting in August to address our school community.

[Parental involvement in preventing and responding to cyberbullying | Australian Institute of Family Studies \(aifs.gov.au\)](https://aifs.gov.au/)

Dates to Remember

16 MAY - SCHOOL DISCO

INFANTS 5-6.15PM

PRIMARY 6.30-8PM

18 MAY - YR 6 END OF YEAR

COMMITTEE 5-6PM STAFF ROOM

19 MAY - NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

23 MAY - PEG 6.30PM MCAULEY

24 MAY - DIO RUGBY TRIALS

25 MAY - PEG 2.30PM MCAULEY

29 MAY - SORRY DAY

5 JUN - BIG FUTSAL DAY

9 JUN - REGIONAL ATHLETICS

12 JUN - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - KING'S BIRTHDAY

15 JUN - CONFIRMATION 6.30PM

23 JUN - PJ DAY

18 JUL - REGISTRATION FOR COMMUNION

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



The most common discussion I have with parents is the issue of bullying online. I will start off by saying that if the school becomes aware of any bullying parents are informed. Now if the matter is happening out of school hours this is the parents' responsibility, and it is for you to take appropriate action. The police make it very clear that cyber bullying must be taken seriously by everyone and if the matter is happening outside of school hours, it is for the parent to resolve. It's also important to understand that to access most if not all social media accounts the child must be at least 13 years of age. And if an incident is deemed very serious by the police the child after the age of 13 can be charged or cautioned.

I ask parents to consider better monitoring of what their children are doing online, remember you are not your child's friend but rather their parent. It is ok to say NO to the use of social media and it's also ok to stop your child from using social media. Set limits of use, for example, no more social media after a set time at night (primary school children 7 to 7.30pm) and not every night. Ensure that your child's device is not password protected from you. Withdraw the device from your child's room at night. Insist that you have access to all social media accounts and yes, your child will be upset but you know what it's just how it is, you're paying the account and ultimately responsible for your child's actions up to a certain age. We can all stop bullying by being present for our children and not presume that they are always doing the right thing!

Back playground

Yesterday before our Catholic Schools Week Liturgy our Kindergarten children christened the back playground. For most of these children this is the first time they have every set foot on it. They were very excited.

PEG Gathering

Next Tuesday evening 23 May at 6.30pm in the Catherine McAuley Centre and on Thursday 25 May at 2.30pm in the Catherine McAuley Centre we will come together to continue our planning for upcoming PEG initiatives. All are most welcome. If you have pre-schoolers please feel free to bring them along even if it's the evening meeting.

Duilio Rufo
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 had a marvellous camp at the Collaroy Centre last week. The feedback from Collaroy staff was that our students were always polite, respectful, and willing to give all the activities a go - I was so proud of all the children. The teachers and I saw all the children encouraging each other through some of the more challenging activities, and I know all children conquered some of their fears and achieved personal goals. I would also like to thank the Year 6 teachers for all the organisation that goes into ensuring camp runs smoothly, and to Mr Paton, Mr Moore, Mrs Karbowski and Mr Smith for attending the camp.

Year 6 End of Year Committee

This Thursday 18 May, we will have our second meeting for Year 6 in the staff room from 5-6pm. Please join us if you'd like to be involved in organising the end of Year 6 activities.

Pyjama Day

On **Friday 23 June** we will hold our annual Pyjama Day. Children are welcome to wear their Pyjamas to school and bring a gold coin donation, all money will be donated to Caritas. More information to come closer to the date.



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Kaylene Maretich, Assistant Principal

Religious Education

Catholic Schools Week – During the week of the 15-19 May 2023, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. An annual event that recognises and acknowledges the sacred work of our schools and how they seek to journey with every student. Each moment of that journey presents opportunities to encounter the Mystery and all-embracing love of God: through our relationships, our learnings, our liturgical celebrations. As our Church engages in a process of synodality, which literally translates to 'journeying together,' we accompany our young people in a process that listens, discerns, and responds. By walking together in faith and love, we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to live more fully and resonantly in the freedom of God.

This year, our Catholic Schools Week theme is "Encounter: Journeying Together," which reminds us that we are called to be Easter people – those who are committed to building joy-filled communities who are constantly seeking unity and belonging. Such times call for us to accompany others along the road, meeting them where they are at, hearing the things that set their hearts on fire, and those that express their disappointments and anger. Like the two disciples heading towards Emmaus (Lk 24:13:35), Jesus does not tell them to turn back, rather He walks alongside them and listens deeply. He doesn't just talk to them at a distance, He meets them and encounters them.

Our mission is to live within the tension between the convictions of the Church and the questions of the world. As we accompany one another, we become Christ for one another, opening up together the mysteries of life and faith. This is at the heart of our theme this year.

During this significant week, may we strive to live in active service of Jesus and His mission as we celebrate together during Catholic Schools Week and always.

Sacramental Program – Confirmation will take place, **Thursday 15th June 6:30pm at St Therese's Church, New Lambton.**

The **Information/Registration evening for First Holy Communion** will take place on **Tuesday 18th July at 6:30pm** (Hall or Zoom option available). Children will receive **Holy Communion on either of the weekend Parish Masses (Sun. 20th or 27th August at 9:15am).**

Reconciliation Week – This is preceded by **National Sorry Day on Friday 26th May** and runs from **27th May – 3rd June**. The week **concludes, Saturday 3rd June with Mabo Day**. We will acknowledge the significance of this week with a special liturgy at our afternoon assembly on Monday 29th May.

Luke Smith,
RE Coordinator

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 and payments should have commenced. 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), contact 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

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Bursar

Canteen

Mon 22/5	Tues 23/5	Wed 24/5	Thurs 25/5	Fri 26/5
Jenni T	Alison S	Cath O	Sarah B	Michelle R
Pia CM	Annabel O'N			Nicole G
	Sarah W			Amy R

PBS and Principal Awards

This term we are focusing on the value of **Compassion**. We congratulate the following children for receiving the PBS School Spirit Award for demonstrating **COMPASSION** by forgiving others:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating COMPASSION by forgiving others					
KN	George A	KW	Zoe D	KL	Thomas B
	Olivia S		Jazmine M		Tansy T
1N	Logan O	1W	Penny F	1L	James D
	Laila N		Heston G		Emily J
		2W	Bonnie B	2L	Archie S
			Zara A		Isabella A
3N	Thomas P	3W	Henry B	3L	Charlie F
	Ava H		Chase P		Amelia M
4N	Maria B	4W	Noah B	4L	Harper S
	Marcus S		Maeve H		Jerome G
5N	Lachlan F	5W	Lauren T	5L	Luke R
	Zoe O		Mia S		Indigo H
6N	Tully H	6W	Molly B	6L	Blythe P
	Sage T		Archie D		Sophie M

Principal Awards

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

KN – Frederick J; **KW** – Mateo S; **2W** – Ethan R; **3W** – Abbey C & Tom C; **3L** – Benjamin C; **5N** – Bluey M; **5L** – Erin Shah

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

Date: Monday 22nd May

Time: 2:30pm

Parents are welcome to attend our weekly school assemblies in the school hall on **Monday afternoons**.

Melissa Pyers

Coordinator

Mini Vinnies

It is that time of the year again when Mini Vinnies is asking for your assistance in helping others. Our Winter Appeal begins next week. Each grade is asked to bring food items allocated to their year group. Students will bring 1-2 food items each that can be donated to the St Vincent de Paul society, who will make up parcels for the needy in our community. Please help us to help those who are not as fortunate as we are. The Winter Appeal donations will be collected on Wednesday and Friday each week. It will finish Friday Week 8.

Kinder Baked beans, spaghetti, tinned snacks

Year 1: Pasta, Pasta sauce, noodles, tinned soup

Year 2: Tinned vegetables, tinned fruit.

Year 3: Toothpaste, soap, shampoo

Year 4: Cereal, Porridge, biscuits

Year 5: Spreads – vegemite, jam, honey etc Sauces – bbq, tomato etc

Year 6: Coffee, tea, milo, drinking chocolate

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

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Coach's Corner

Cross Country:

Another wonderful day for St. Therese's sport was had by our amazingly talented distance runners at the Diocesan Cross Country held last Wednesday on the 10th May. All competitors gave their races their very best and did our school and themselves proud.

A huge shout out and thank you to those parents that were able to join, your encouragement and support was sincerely appreciated.

A special congratulations to those students that achieved placings on the day: Mary W (8/9s Girls - 4th) and Chase P (9s Boys - 2nd), these students will proceed the next stage in Polding Cross Country in Sydney.



Hunter Wildfires

This week we found out that two of our talented Rugby players - Louis F and Jack M - have recently made the selective Hunter Wildfires Team. Congratulations boys!

National Walk Safely to School Day:

A reminder that this walk to school event is on this Friday. Meeting at Adamstown Train Station carpark at 8:15am for an 8:30am walk to school.

All welcome, furry friends included.

Wonder Soft Plastic Recycle for Sports Equipment:

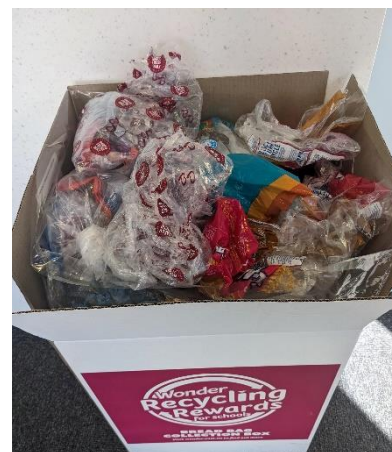
Continues through to July 7th. Please keep bringing in your empty bread bags. We have filled one from 4 of our bins.

Many thanks,

Coach

SPORT

Regional Athletics – Congratulations to the children who have qualified for this next level of competition. Please ensure all notes and payment are received at the front office by the due date listed. The event is scheduled to take place at the Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track on **Friday 9th June**.



Hunter Junior Rugby Union - Louis F. and Jack M. from Year 4 have been successfully selected to represent Hunter Junior Rugby Union in the Wildfires Development squad. Congratulations boys!

Luke Smith
Coordinator

K-2 Water Show

Recently Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 experienced the excitement of a Water Show! They learnt how to care for and conserve water using a scientific approach. Here's what the children had to say:

"My favourite part was when the toothpaste exploded out of the giant toothpaste bottle because it was fun and exciting to watch". **Jacob S KL**

"I learnt about how to do science experiments using water and heat". **Louis J KN**

"I learnt how to keep safe with water and how to make toothpaste explode. I was a volunteer in the show, and I sang the 'Incy Wincy' spider song so the shower flower would turn on".
Hannah M KW

"I enjoyed watching the balloons pop to demonstrate how air and gas works. I liked when one of the presenters blew toilet paper in the other presenter's face. It was really funny when the robot scared the scientist by sneaking up behind him" **Declan P 1N**

"I loved when they made elephant toothpaste. It was funny when the presenter did a magic trick with the water pipe. He made angel circles with a bin. There was white wind inside the circle which made a cloud". **August 1W**

"My favourite part was when I got chosen to hold a stick with fire and pop a balloon. I learnt not to waste water because it is a precious thing which helps us survive". **Vinnie 1L**

"I learnt that the sun is electrical, and it can work together with the water to help the plants grow. My favourite part was learning about air and how it can help to make waves in the water". **Audrey L 2L**

"I learnt that if you have a long shower, you are wasting too much water. My favourite part was seeing an elephant sized toothpaste explode. **Evie G 2W**



sage, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.

CONGRATULATIONS!

✦ Bravo! ✦

Ava

Jennifer

Alexander

Max

Maeve

Andrea

Harry

To these wonderful students who have already completed the Premiers Reading Challenge.

HOORAY!

TODAY A READER
TOMORROW A LEADER



OPEN CLASSROOMS ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
2023



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Think, Grow, Shine.



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



Year 3 Wetlands Excursion



Think, Grow, Shine.



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



HI EVERYONE!

My name is Miss Soo, I am the Youth Minister at St Therese's Primary School. This is my second year in the role, and I feel so blessed to be a part of this school community, working alongside such dedicated staff and getting to know this amazing bunch of kids!

My role at the school is to accompany the students and support them in their faith development. I meet each child where they are at in their faith and invite them to explore, learn and discover more about God and God's message. I prepare and facilitate classroom ministry sessions and liturgy dramatizations with the Year 6 students ready for Monday's assembly. This term, I will be taking some Year 5 students to visit our local nursing home, St John's Villa. My hope is to show how relevant and important faith is (especially now) in a fun, engaging and inclusive way. To make Jesus real through themselves, their peers and the community!



ABOUT ME

I love my family and God. I am passionate about living out my faith by serving my community and empowering other young people to be living disciples of the Church today. My home Parish is Holy Trinity - Blackbutt North. I'm currently studying a Bachelor Degree in Primary Education at the University of Newcastle.

In my own time...

- I volunteer with St Vincent De Paul Society (Vinnies) in Youth outreach programs and home visits as a Youth leader, conference member and former spiritual advisor.
- I am a member of the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Diocesan Council Ministry for Young People.
- I am reinvigorating the youth space at my Parish by growing a vibrant and sustainable youth ministry and choir. Youth Mass is currently on the 4th Sunday of the month at Corpus Christi Church! All welcome!
- I have also been playing the guitar for 11 years and sing.

I'm so excited to be journeying on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and onto World Youth Day this year in Portugal, where I will gather with other young people to celebrate our diversity and faith!

I've also been working with Holy Trinity Parish Office for 4 years and have 3 years of experience as a qualified Learn to Swim Instructor.



MY FAVS:

Flower: Sunflower

Fruit: Mango

Season: Summer

Sport: Boxing

Scripture verse: "Be not afraid" ~ Deuteronomy 31-6

Place: The beach & wherever my family is.

Life Motto: Keep the faith. The most amazing things in life tend to happen right at the moment you are about to give up hope!

CONTACT ME:

E. | johanna.soo@mn.catholic.org.au

Youth Ministry related inquiries:

E. | trinity.youth@mn.catholic.org.au

Year 4 Tree Planting New Lambton Park

12 May 2023

Hands-on lessons help sow the seeds for a new generation of environmental champions

Students swapped the classroom for the great outdoors today during a hands-on lesson about urban biodiversity delivered by City of Newcastle.

Almost 100 Year 4 students from St Therese's Primary School, New Lambton pulled on their gardening gloves to plant 2,000 native ferns, flowering shrubs and grasses beneath six 100-year-old fig trees at Lambton Park, before learning about the importance of vegetation, fauna, and water health during a biodiversity "treasure hunt" for bird's nests and insects along Lambton Ker-ral Creek.

The children were also encouraged to get creative with a fun art activity highlighting sustainability and the value of nature-based solutions.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said City of Newcastle was committed to investing in and caring for our diverse natural environment.

"During the past four years, City of Newcastle has invested \$7.8 million in caring for our bushland, watercourse and wetland assets through the design and delivery of on-ground habitat restoration works and community engagement programs," Cr Nelmes said.

"In addition, the City has invested \$6.3 million in street and park tree replacement planting, and growing our urban forest program.

"The greening of our urban landscape has a positive impact on Newcastle and improves our community sense of wellbeing."

Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk said the outdoor classroom event would help create a sense of connection between the students and the environment in which they live.

"City of Newcastle cares for a wonderful array of natural ecosystems, including 80 kilometres of creeks, 512 hectares of bushland and over 113,000 street and park trees," Cr Adamczyk said.

"These natural assets help absorb and store carbon, provide food and shelter for native wildlife, and keep our air and water clean, while also making our city a cooler, more beautiful and pleasant place to live.

"Engaging students in hands-on outdoor classroom activities is a fantastic way to increase their knowledge and passion for the local environment, leaving a legacy of expanding the urban forest and biodiversity in their local park that they can be proud of in years to come.

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City of Newcastle is committed to becoming an International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) City with Nature, recognising and enhancing the value of our natural surrounds.



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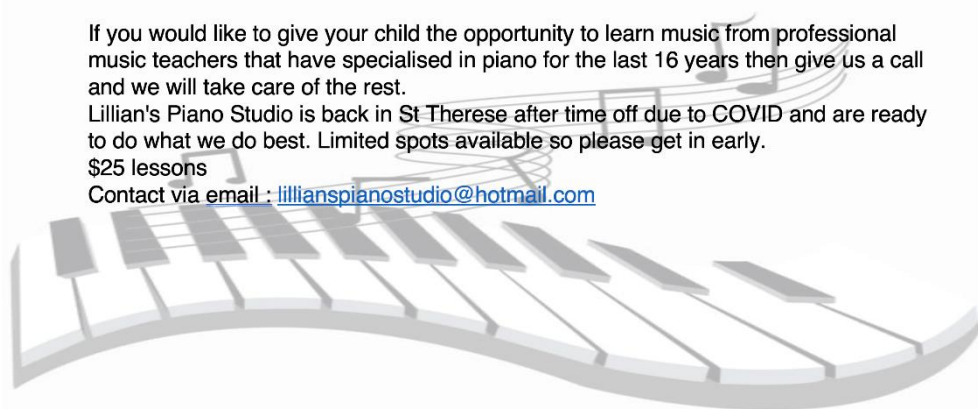
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aussie hoops x **NEWCASTLE BASKETBALL**




WHO: GRADE K-6
WHERE: NEWCASTLE BASKETBALL STADIUM
WHEN: SATURDAYS, MONDAYS, AND TUESDAYS
COST: LATE ENTRY DISCOUNTED
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(7 WEEKS OF 9)

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