



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Fathers Day Breakfast

Last Friday morning we welcomed dads and grandfathers/uncles for a Father's Day breakfast. It was a huge turnout and everyone enjoyed their sausage sandwich. A special thankyou to all the staff who contributed to making the morning such a success.

Staff Development – PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that Friday 8th September will be a **PUPIL FREE DAY** as our staff will be off site attending the mandatory Religious Education Professional Development day. You may consider our onsite OOSH for your needs on this day.

Grandparents Day

Next term on Friday 27th October I am inviting all grandparents from all the grades across the school to join us for a "Grandparents Day". This will commence at 9.30am in the Main Hall for a "welcome presentation" from Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2. Following on from this will be a morning tea in the courtyard and then open classrooms for all to visit. These activities are due to over by 11.15am. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Safeguarding

During this week the school will be focusing on the Safeguarding theme for this year of "Where we start matters". There are a number of age-appropriate resources being made available to the teachers to bring this important message to our children. Commencing this week and into the future a special section in the Newsletter will be allocated to Safeguarding matters, please look out for this.

Afternoon School Assemblies

Please note that the Monday afternoon Assembly start time will change to 1.30pm – commencing Term 4. All families are always welcome.

Art Trail Opening – Focus on Visual Arts

On Friday 15th September we will be celebrating the Grand Opening of our Inaugural Art Trail at St Therese's. This is a very exciting initiative that resulted from a suggestion raised at one of our PEG meetings earlier in the year. My sincere thanks to the Tonkin & Ladmore families for all the hard work and enthusiasm that has made this a memorable experience for the children and will brighten our playground.

Duilio Rufo

Principal

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

Dates to Remember

8 SEPT – PUPIL FREE DAY – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

14TH SEPT – RUGBY, HUNTER VALLEY GRAMMAR

14/15 SEPT – LOTUS ART SHOW

15TH SEPT – INFANTS MASS 9.30AM

15TH SEPT – Tocal Excursion Yr 2

15TH SEPT – ART TRAIL OPENING 3.30PM

18TH SEPT – YR 6 TO ST PIUS FOR SPORT DAY

22ND SEPT – LAST DAY OF TERM

12TH & 13TH OCT – INQUISITIVE MINDS

13TH OCT – STAGE 3 MASS 9.30AM

17 OCT – SCARAMENTAL PROGRAM 6.30PM

27TH OCT – GRANDPARENTS DAY

Assistant Principal's Message

Child Protection Week

National Child Protection started today and runs for the week. The theme for 2023 is "*Where we start matters*" and the logo is the jigsaw puzzle attached. This highlights that the safety of children is from their connections to adults all around them – we are all pieces of their jigsaw puzzle. Throughout this week, each class will focus on activities related to child protection, we also start our child protection week unit of work. Over the course of the week, talk to your child about ways to keep safe, such as stranger danger, cyber safety and keeping our bodies safe. Throughout this week, I will post links to useful websites on Compass.

Child Protection Information from the Catholic Schools Office

NCSS 3.2.2 Safeguarding information is provided and widely available, including contact details of the Safeguarding Committee and/or Safeguarding Coordinator(s).

Safeguarding information for parents

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an absolute and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of children. As a parent sending your child or children to a Diocesan school, you should be aware of your rights and obligations in protecting your child and all children in our schools.

St Therese's has implemented a Safeguarding Promoter to ensure that our families are provided with information about the school's approach to safeguarding children and its compliance with the Church and State child safe Standards. Kaylene Maretich is currently in this position.

The Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998

In NSW we can report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). If we are concerned for one or more of the children in the school, we can discuss our concerns with a teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal. We can report our concerns to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) if we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and our concerns are current. Risk of significant harm may occur from a single act or omission or to a series of acts or omissions.

When determining how serious your concerns for a child may be, always consider whether that child has any particular risk factors, including:

- age, the younger the more dependent
- physical disabilities, developmental delays, or medical conditions
- social isolation
- culturally diverse background
- diverse sexuality and gender
- nobody looking out for the child they could depend on.

It is better to be safe than sorry, so if uncertain, talk to a staff member at the school.

As parents you are entitled to contact the Office of Safeguarding directly about any concerns you have about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or if you are concerned that the school is not addressing allegations of reportable conduct or abuse. (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri).

Art Trail

We invite all families to the Art Trail on **Friday 15 September** from 3:30 – 5:30pm in the school grounds. The trail will begin from the Royal St gates, closest to the Kindergarten classrooms, and will meander through the school. You can pick up a map as you enter the gates, which will show you where all the artworks are installed. The map contains QR codes, that can be scanned on your phone, to access podcasts recorded by students in each grade that explain the artworks. We will also have computers with the audio files, as a back up to play the podcasts. Year 6 will also hold a cake stall, where delicious treats can be purchased, the money raised will go towards the Year 6 end of year celebrations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following, people who have made the Art Trail possible: Odette and Luke Tonkin, Cathy and John Walker, Carla Ladmore, Jan Cristaudo and Mr Ward and his Jazz band. Thank you also to the teachers for your support and most importantly to our beautiful students for their beautiful artworks.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

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



Religious Education

Staff Faith Formation – This Friday, 8th September, is a Pupil-Free Day as our staff engage in a Spirituality & Faith Formation day. The theme of the day will be, **Rediscovering Joy: Finding Wonder & Joy in The Word of God**, and will be delivered by special guest visitor Dr Michelle Connolly. Formation is a deep, experiential and transformational learning journey of head, heart and hands that nurtures both individual spiritual growth and communal flourishing. As an ecclesial (Church) endeavour and part of the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church, Catholic schools in the Maitland-Newcastle diocese seek to develop an atmosphere of faith, in which teachers, students and families are valued and know they are valued as persons of worth and dignity, created in the image and likeness of God. Formation encourages the growth of the whole person which nurtures their way of being in the world, their communion with God, themselves, others and creation and invites all to a greater calling as missionary disciples in the service of others.

School and system leaders, as well as all staff members, need ongoing formation in order to grow in their own understanding of and capacity for, the ministry that is Catholic education.

WHAT DOES FORMATION LOOK LIKE?

- Formation is experienced through a range of deliberate and circumstantial processes. In other words, formation happens through intentionally planned experiences, as well as incidentally, through the culture and relationships within the community.
- Formation requires the setting aside of 'chronos' time away from the daily routine of school life to enable 'Kairos' time for God to work in the midst of the experience.
- It is intended to be lifelong. No one is completely 'formed'. Everyone is on their own pathway and at different stages on their journey.
- It can be facilitator-led or not. Programs such as Staff formation/spirituality days, retreats, staff groups, through to reading, personal reflection and experiences. There is no one way to experience formation.
- It is an experience of encounter with God, that affirms an individual's understanding of themselves as a person made in God's image and likeness and in an ongoing, life-giving relationship with the creator, led by the Holy Spirit.
- An experience that seeks to equip individuals and communities with greater clarity of purpose and sense of their role in God's mission on earth (the fulfilment of God's Kingdom of love, justice, peace, mercy and care for creation)

Sacramental Program 2023/2024 (Year 3) – The next Sacramental Program will commence with an information & registration evening for our Year 3 parents in Term 4. On **Tuesday 17th October at 6:30pm**, all those parents who wish to enrol their children in the program are invited to come along to the school hall. If you are unable to attend this evening though still wish for your child to complete the Sacramental Program, please email me directly: luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au

Stage Masses for Term 3 – The following dates and times indicate our remaining Stage Masses for this term. Parents and carers are most warmly invited to attend:

- Infants Mass – Friday 15th September at 9:30am
- Stage 3 Mass – *Due to a change in Fr Velerian's schedule this has now been moved to the first Friday of Term 4* – Friday 13th October at 9:30am

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 are emailed at the beginning of each month and payments should have commenced. When you receive your statement, please arrange for a regular Bpay, Direct Debit or an

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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. 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 Carrick
Bursar

Canteen

Mon 11/9	Tues 12/9	Wed 13/9	Thurs 14/9	Fri 15/9
Jenni Trummel	Alison Sharman	Cath Oakley	Sarah Bagnall	Michelle Randall
Pia C Marsh	Annabel O'Neill		Brittany Boutillier	Nicole Green
	Sarah White			Amy Robinson

PBS

PBS Awards

This term we are focusing on the value of **Hospitality**. We congratulate the following children for receiving the PBS School Spirit Award for demonstrating **HOSPITALITY** by being generous to others:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating HOSPITALITY by being generous to others					
KN	Maia P	KW	Bailey M	KL	Grace P
	Emily M		Florence F		William M
1N	Rafferty M	1W	Elise R	1L	Lorenzo D
	Angus M		Seth M		Hooper H
		2W	Hugo H	2L	Madeleine H
			Vann R		Maggie K
3N	Abbey L	3W	Ezra C	3L	Benjamin C
	Ben C		Jackson F		Mia H
4N	Marcus A	4W	Chase M	4L	Tayla A
	Stirling R		Thomas L		Ashton S
5N	Oliver K	5W	Henry G	5L	Ryder P
	Noah J		Jake M		Anna O
6N	Frankie J	6W	Eliza A	6L	Vivienne B
	Liam B		Isaac N		Oliver R

Principal Awards

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

Principal Awards					
KW	Genevieve L	1N	Harry T Isla P Maia L Bexley G Audrey G	1W	August D
1L	Noah D	2W	Pippa W	3N	Oliver W
4W	Jack M	4L	Harper S	5N	Spencer P
5L	Beau R Alex O				

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

Date: Monday 11th September

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: School Hall

Melissa Pyers
Primary Coordinator

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Fathers Day 2023



Think, Grow, Shine.



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





SAVE THE DATE!

**Grandparents of all our students are warmly invited to our:
Grandparents Day Celebration!**

Date: Friday 27th October

Time: 9:30-Welcome in the School Hall K- 2

10-10:15am – Morning Tea

10:30-11.15am – Open Classrooms



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



Profitable parenting

Taking risks and asking questions

With guest speaker and author, Daisy Turnbull

**FREE ONLINE
EVENTS**
for parents and
carers of children
and teens

12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Parents and carers are invited to take part in free, online presentations that will empower you with engaging and practical ways to raise your child or young person to be resilient and ready to take on the world!

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's Federation of P & F Associations has invited teacher and high-profile author, Daisy Turnbull, to share practical advice with parents and carers on ways you can develop your child's independence and confidence.

Daisy's presentations will draw on the knowledge of some of the world's leading psychologists, but it's her relatable style and realistic suggestions that reflect her experience as both a parent and the Director of Wellbeing in schools that will leave you feeling empowered to navigate the modern-day challenges associated with raising children and teens.



BUILDING RESILIENCE AND INDEPENDENCE IN YOUR CHILD

**Most suitable for parents and carers of
children ages 5-10 years**

In this session, Daisy will encourage parents and carers to get outside their comfort zone, by encouraging their children to take more risks. She'll explain how this approach helps nurture kids' independence and resilience, by teaching them to recognise and assess consequences for themselves, readying them for life and all that it brings.

Attendees will leave this session with loads of fun ideas on ways that they can connect with their children that will also help to build their young one's physical and social skills, responsibility, and character.

DATE Tuesday 12 September

TIME 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Registrations essential at:

www.mn.shor.in/PFBUILDING

FOSTERING COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE

**Most suitable for parents and carers of
young people ages 11-18 years**

This session is for parents and carers seeking to build a stronger connection with their tweens and teens. Daisy will help parents and carers to better understand the social and emotional needs of young people and provide them with ideas on how they can help them to navigate common concerns that arise during adolescence including friendships, consent, self-compassion, managing conflict, mental health, boundaries and media influences.

Attendees will leave this session with (realistic) conversation starters that will promote their teens' awareness of the world and encourage them to take responsibility and understand consequences and risks in a fast-changing world.

DATE Wednesday 13 September

TIME 7.30pm - 8.30pm

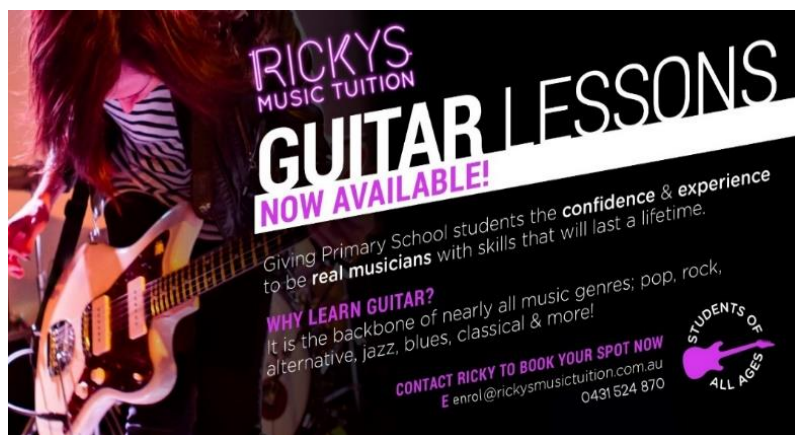
Registrations essential at:

www.mn.shor.in/PFFOSTERING



mn.catholic.edu.au

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STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

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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



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





Here are some of our amazing local businesses that have donated prizes to be won from our LOTUS raffle.

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



30 August 2023.

Dear Families,

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and its schools are individually and collectively committed to partnering with families to co-develop faith-filled learning environments in which students flourish.

Family engagement forums, including Parent Engagement Groups (PEG), play a key role in fostering a sense of belonging and support for all in our school communities.

As you may be aware, your school's PEG was only established in recent years, and was done so to support authentic family engagement in student learning. Recently, the Trustees of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle have endorsed a recommendation that all diocesan schools transition to the PEG model by 31 December 2025. The evolution to a single-family engagement model is in response to the declining engagement of families in official school forums across the Diocese and recognises the importance of consistency.

In addition, the Trustees have accepted a subsequent recommendation that schools' PEG forums be renamed Family and Community Engagement (FACE). This name change recognises that school engagement is larger than just parents and highlights our Catholic schools' inclusive nature. Furthermore, the acronym FACE is a symbolic representation that the Church views families and community as being at the forefront of schools.

With change comes opportunity for improvement. As part of the transition process, the Trustees have tasked the Diocesan Governance Team to develop a strengthened framework for the FACE model in consultation with key stakeholder groups, including families.

Accordingly, I have begun discussions with the Diocese's peak parent body, the Federation of P & F Associations to ensure that parents and carers have a strong voice in informing the refreshed family engagement forum guidelines. Next week, I will be meeting with Federation delegates to understand their hopes and aspirations for the FACE model, and to collaboratively identify methods to engage all families regarding the improved model.

Of uppermost importance in this process will be ensuring that the FACE model supports improved outcomes for students and enables parents and carers to be authentically engaged in their child's education.

Further details about the transition process, including consultation opportunities will be made available in due course, following meetings with Federation of P & F Association delegates. In the interim, I understand you may have suggestions regarding how family engagement forums including the existing PEG model could be strengthened, and I encourage you to send them through to info@mn.catholic.edu.au

I am hopeful that by continuing to work together, we can strengthen family and community engagement in our schools and thus, continue to build a positive and supportive environment for students to grow and learn.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Lemos

Head of Catholic Schools

COME AND SEE YOUR
CHILDREN'S BEAUTIFUL
ART CREATIONS AT

ST THERESE'S 2023 ART TRAIL

**ENCOUNTER: JOURNEY TOGETHER
THROUGH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON
15TH SEPTEMBER
BETWEEN 3:30PM-5:30PM

**JAZZ BY HOWARD WARD AND HIS
OLD MANS DIXI BAND**

**AFTERNOON TEA CAKE
STALL**

**FREE ENTRY THROUGH ROYAL
STREET**

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



02 4952 2444

Pollet's
MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE

OPEN DAY

Saturday 9th Sept 9.30am - 2pm

9.30am - 10am LITTLE TIGERS TRIAL
Bring your child aged 2.5 - 6 years to join a trial of our Little Tigers Class - Even bring a friend!

10am - 10.40am KARATE TRIAL - Ages 7+
We welcome in children aged 7+ and adults to join a trial class of our Okinawan Karate class.

10.40am - 11am DEMONSTRATIONS
Watch us demonstrate martial arts techniques and routines from multiple styles that we offer.

11am - 12pm MUAY THAI TRIAL - Ages 7+
We welcome in children aged 7+ and adults to join a trial class of Muay Thai Kickboxing.

12pm - 2pm LIVE MUSIC & BBQ LUNCH
Enjoy music from talented Singer-Songwriter Sandy Louise, plus other fun and entertainment + enjoy a complimentary BBQ lunch & treats!

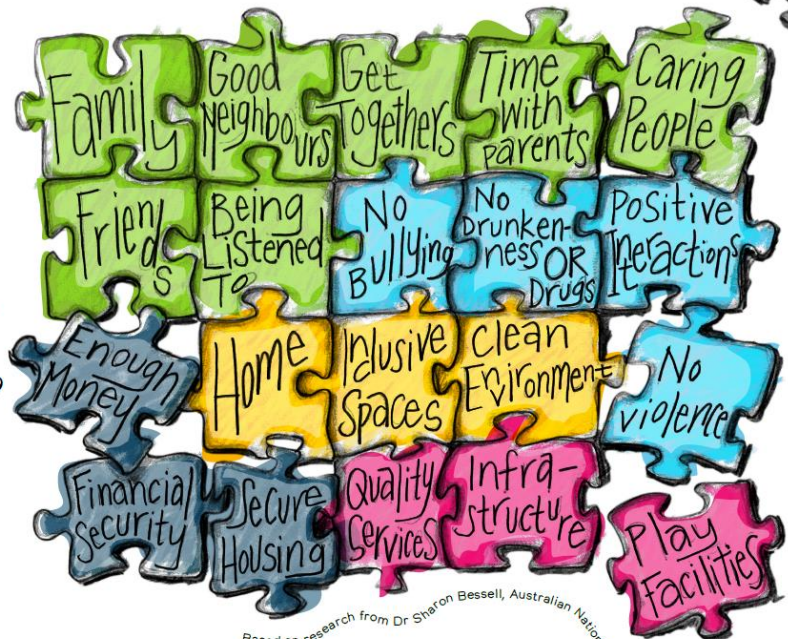
Sign up specials + Member specials!

Pollet's Martial Arts, 44 Park Ave, Adamstown 2289

WHERE WE START MATTERS

"A community is like a puzzle.
You need to have all the bits
to make it work."

- M, aged 9



Based on research from Dr Sharon Bessell, Australian National University

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

3-9 September 2023

Where can you start? www.napcan.org.au



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& NEGLECT
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NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 3-9 SEPTEMBER 2023

GET INVOLVED!

**EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY
COMMUNITY
NEEDS
A FAIR GO**

National Child Protection Week (NCPW) invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

In 2023, NCPW is centred around the theme, 'Where we start matters. *Where we start* our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us, and the opportunities presented to us make a significant difference to our life outcomes. *Where we start* as a service sector in offering children and their families support and assistance makes

The Office of Safeguarding is the organisational expression of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's abiding commitment to promote the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons, working closely with the Diocese's parishes, schools, social services, early education and out-of-school hour care programs.

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

