



Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers

As we enter Week 8, the excitement of the festive season and end of the school year activities has started to build.

Carols Concert

It was so wonderful to have the Christmas Carols Evening last Wednesday. Thank you to Mrs Brymora and the staff for ensuring the children were well prepared and for joining in with the staff band and choir. Thank you to Mr Ward and our concert band, for their festive musical pieces that started the evening. The children sang beautifully, and it was such a special evening celebrating with our school and parish community. A special mention to Daniela P, Isaiah S and Oscar K for their performance, you are all very talented, and we are so proud of you. Thank you also to all the families that attended on the evening and joined in the singing. It was greatly appreciated that the majority of the children remained with their families, or visited other family and friends who were also in attendance. There were a small number of children that were using the elevator, running along the upper balconies, and climbing on the bag racks, while others were at the OOSH "banging" on the windows so hard, that the alarm was activated.



Christmas Craft

This Friday 1 December is our Christmas Craft sessions from 12:15 – 2:00pm. Parents/carers are welcome to join their child during these sessions, and children can wear Christmas themed clothing. Please ensure appropriate footwear, that covers the whole foot, hats and clothes that provide cover from the sun are worn e.g. no singlet tops or tank tops. Late bookings can only be added to sessions that still have available spaces, as all sessions have space for 25 children.

Dates to Remember

- 1 DEC – CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY**
SESSION 1 12:15-1PM
SESSION 2 1:15-2PM
- 4 DEC – BAND CONCERT 10AM**
- 6 DEC – YR 6 GRADUATION MASS 6PM**
- 8 DEC – YEAR 6 MOTIV8SPORTS**
KINDER TRANSITION 9.30
- 11 DEC – SWIMMING CARNIVAL**
- 14 DEC – GUITAR CONCERT 2.30PM**
- 15 DEC – AWARDS CEREMONY**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 1 FEB 24 – 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL YR1-6**
- 5 FEB 24 – 1ST DAY OF KINDER**

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

Poetry Evening

I had the pleasure of attending the Poetry Evening last night at the Comedy Club. Thank you to Mrs Sheridan and Mrs McNeil for organising an excellent evening, and to our wonderful poets. The audience was entertained by humour, insightful, and inspiring poetry, and I was amazed at the depth of meaning and imagery in the poems written by our children. It was also so lovely to see so many families attending last night, we look forward to Poetry Night 2024!

New staff members for 2024

With several planned staffing changes at the end of the school year, and following a robust and thorough recruitment process, we are delighted to confirm our appointments and welcome new staff members for 2024:

- Mrs Carly Kelly will be joining our Year 2 teaching team, in a job-share capacity with Mr Luke Smith our Religious Education Coordinator. Mrs Kelly joins us from the Archdiocese of Sydney, where she has worked since 2011, with time also spent working in the Broken Bay Diocese. Mrs Kelly has mentored new scheme teachers, has experience with gifted education and an interest in diverse learning.
- Mr Jye Bowen will be joining our Year 4 teaching team. Mr Bowen has worked within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese since 2019, at several of our fellow Diocesan schools. As well as his role as a teacher, Mr Bowen is a keen surfer, he also has a strong interest in several sports, and we welcome his additional expertise in this area.
- Mrs Tegan Jones will be joining our Year 5 teaching team. Mrs Jones joins us from the Toowoomba Diocese, where she has taught since 2011, prior to this, Mrs Jones was employed in the Armidale Diocese. As well as her role as a teacher, Mrs Jones has held mentoring and coaching roles, has a passion for embedding technology into her classroom and plays an active role in her parish.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Kelly, Mr Bowen, and Mrs Jones to our team for 2024. We look forward to working with them, and the expertise and enthusiasm they will bring to St Therese's.

Our staff list has now been confirmed for 2024, and the teaching staff are as follows:

KN – Miss Danika Graham

KW – Miss Jess LeCompte (Mrs Elli Hunt will return T3 part-time)

KL – Mrs Kylie Lunn

1N – Miss Jennifer Curtain

1W – Miss Mikaela McIntosh

1L – Mr Liam Ireson

2N – Miss Alex Toscano

2W – Mr Luke Smith (Mon, Tues + alt Wed) / Mrs Carly Kelly (alt Wed + Thurs-Fri)

2L – Mrs Naomi Parker (Mon-Tues) / Mrs Melinda Helmers (Wed-Fri)

3N – Mrs Amy Karbowskiak (Wed-Fri) / Teacher for Mon-Tues (TBC) (Ms Shazmey Murray will return T3 part-time)

3W – Mrs Julia Briggs

3L – Ms Teresa Sokulsky

4N – Ms Therese Jackman (Mon-Wed) / Mrs Trish McNeil (Thurs – Fri)

4W – Mr Jye Bowen

4L – Mrs Leanne Kepreotes

5N – Mrs Tegan Jones

5W – Mrs Kristy Healey (Mon-Wed)/ Mrs Bernadette Duffy (Thurs-Fri)

5L – Mr Anthony Moore

6N – Mr Donald Paton

6W – Mrs Melissa Pyers (Mon-Wed) / Mrs Naomi Venables (Thurs-Fri)

6L – Miss Carly Mortimer

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal

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Assistant Principal's Message

Office of Safeguarding

SchoolTV

This week we focus on the Friendship and Belonging

Learning how to make new friends and keep them involves a number of skills every young person needs to understand and develop. For some, these skills will come very naturally, allowing them to easily move between different friendship groups, sharing their experiences and opening up to new people. For others, this can be much harder to navigate. Belonging to a group that is like-minded with similar interests is highly beneficial to a young person's wellbeing. It gives them a sense of security helping them feel valued which in turn builds their confidence.

Here is the link to the **Friendship & Belonging** edition of SchoolTV

<https://newlambton.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/friendship-belonging>

Ben McCarthy

Assistant Principal

Religious Education

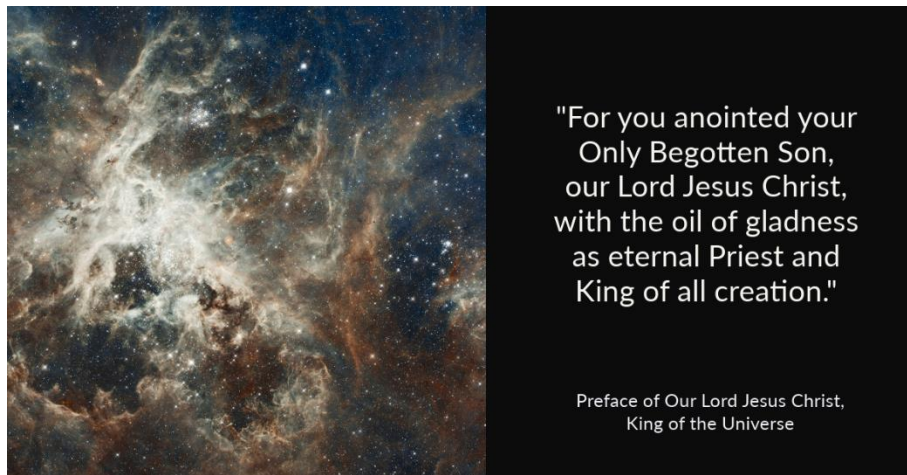
Christ The King – The following piece, written by Dianne Bergant, is a beautiful reflection on Sunday's Gospel passage (*Matt 25:31-46*) on the Feast of Christ The King. It also serves to remind us that the only thing that truly matters along the Christian faith journey is the extent to which we reach out in loving service and sacrifice to others – especially those most in need:

We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that the kingdom of God is inclusive. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern.

What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care.

Taken from: <https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Nov26/0/RefDiBer>



"For you anointed your
Only Begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
with the oil of gladness
as eternal Priest and
King of all creation."

Preface of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

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



Advent

Next **Sunday, 3rd December**, is the First Sunday of Advent. May we use these final few weeks of the year to remind ourselves and our children of the true, '*reason for the season*'. Advent, as a liturgical season, is a time of preparation as we move towards Christmas. It is a time to prepare ourselves to allow Jesus to be born anew, once again, in our hearts.

"And what I say
to you I say to all:
Stay awake!"

Mark 13:37



Busking For Vinnies – In addition to the items people have been sending in for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, we are offering an opportunity for some of our interested students to "Busk For Vinnies" next **Wednesday 6th December**.

Details: At the recess break, students will set up in various allocated locations around the playground to perform a simple song/act/routine. Each student, or group, will be limited to a short 3-4 minute performance (maximum), i.e. if they are singing or dancing – 1 song only. Students are to bring all of their own required props/instruments and in the name of simplicity of transitioning between acts, all performers will perform acoustically (ie. no powerleads will be used – though students can utilise their own Wonderboom or similar if they require). The idea is that students will perform and the next act will move into place as soon as they are finished. There will be buckets at each of the locations for students to donate money towards the performers with all money raised going towards St Vincent de Paul for their Christmas Appeal. Interested students should come and see me by the end of school this Friday (1st Dec.).

Luke Smith
RE Coordinator

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School Community News

School Medication

Please ensure that any changes to your child's medication is notified in writing and that you receive a reply from the office within 48 hours. If you don't hear from us please contact us immediately. We are in the process of updating our Administration of Medication procedures and this will be communicated to the school community in due course.

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

For those families who do not have a payment arrangement in place, please note that the balance of 2023 School fees are now due. Please arrange for payment to be made by the end of November.

If you need more time to pay the balance, or are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the Finance Office Jenny Hurst to discuss how we can assist you.

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. Please avoid using the Compass pay option.

Year 6 parents are reminded to check their fees are up to date to ensure a fee clearance for their new high school.

Compass attendance notes

Please be aware that adding attendance notes in Compass is for WHOLE DAY absences. If you are bringing your child to school late due to an appointment etc, you will receive the text message. Please disregard this if the child is with you. Then upon bringing them into the admin office, you will sign them in through the kiosk. This then adjusts the class roll in real time.

Also, if you are collecting your child early for some reason, please DO NOT add a note in advance, just call into the office and sign them out through the kiosk.

Your help with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Jenny Hurst
Acting Bursar

Canteen

Mon 4/12	Tues 5/12	Wed 6/12	Thurs 7/12	Fri 8/12
Jenni T	Alison S	Cath Oakley	Sarah B	Michelle R
Pia C-F	Annabel O'N		Brittany B	Nicole G
	Sarah W			Amy R

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2023

It is that time of the year again when Mini Vinnies is asking for your assistance in helping others. Our Christmas Appeal begins this 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 Christmas Appeal donations will be collected on Wednesday and Friday each week by the members of Mini Vinnies up until Wednesday 6th December. More information will be given to your child's grade regarding requested items. Thank you for your support,

Year 5 Mini Vinnies

Kinder – sweet biscuits, fruit cakes

Year 1 – lollies, cordial

Year 2 – breakfast cereals, long life custard

Year 3 – chips, nibbles

Year 4 – tinned fruit & vegetables

Year 5 – pasta, spreads

Year 6 – savoury biscuits, spreads

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PBS 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 being **honest**:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating COURAGE by being honest					
KN	George A Tripat K	KW	Ashton F Genevieve L	KL	Jacob S Olive G
1N	Lucas M Madeline P	1W	Harry A Maeve C	1L	Taj V Penelope P
		2W	Bonnie B Lila M	2L	Isabella F Kurt B
3N		3W	Nixon R Maisie S	3L	Charlie F Macy G
4N	Lilly C Stirling R	4W		4L	Brooklyn L Harper S
5N	Ella R Elvis B	5W	Louis A Patrick E	5L	Milla G Bruno R
6N	Jackson L Tabby K	6W	Liam B Chandler D	6L	

Principal Awards

Principal Awards					
KW	Bailey M Jarrah S Zoe D	1N	Iggy P	3W	Hamish K
4N	Frankie S	5N	Molly G	5W	Rosie W Miah F Isaac M
5L	Malia W Cooper M Alex J Eden H Evie C				

Congratulations and thank you, children, for upholding the values and principles of St Therese's. The above students will receive a Principal's Award at their class assembly.

Melissa Pyers
Primary Coordinator

Band Concert 4th December 2023

Our Annual Band performance and Presentation will take place on Monday 4th December at 10am! This invitation is to all Parents, Grandparents, and friends to show off our Talented Concert Band. A great opportunity for our Year 2 Parents to come along and listen to our Band. Mr Ward will be happy to answer any questions you have about your child starting an instrument 2024. Our Ladies in the office have forms for any interested Students!

Howard Ward Music
Ph: 0419 663 389

VIVACE PERFORMANCE



On Friday night a number of our talented musicians performed in Vivace. Howard Ward prepared the combined orchestra made up of students from St Therese's, New Lambton and Rosary Park, Branxton. Vivace is a lively musical performance evening of instrumental music by students across the Hunter Region. Our students performed three musical items and then the finale with all the other schools. I was so impressed by the performances on the night and look forward to seeing the group again sharing their talents.



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PLAYGROUP UPDATE

Last Friday was our playgroup for Kindergarten 2024, with a wonderful turn out and lots of fun and new friends made. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, brought morning tea to share, and helped clean up. This Friday is our last playgroup for 2023, our playgroup Christmas party! Everyone is welcome to join us in the hall from 9:15am - bring a small plate of Christmas-themed food and feel free to wear something Christmassy.

This Friday is the last ever playgroup for lots of our Playgroupers, and my last as playgroup co-ordinator, but Simone has volunteered to take over the role in 2024. Thanks Simone!



CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2023



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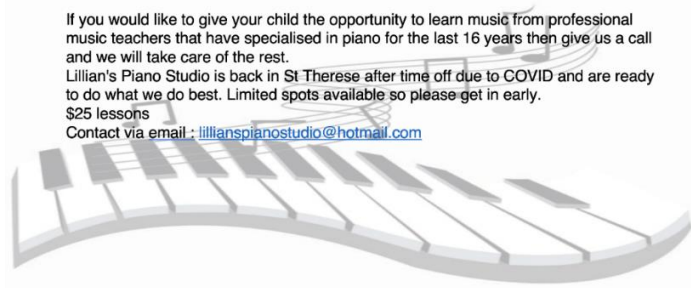
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