



Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers

Today we held our End of Year Awards Ceremony and Kindergarten Nativity, it was a wonderful way to conclude a wonderful 2023. Congratulations to all the students that received an award, and all the children who have worked so hard throughout this year. Today we farewell Duilio Rufo, our much loved and respected Principal. In 2024, Duilio will take on the role of Assistant Head of Catholic Schools. His knowledge and wisdom in education, will be shared throughout the Diocese. Duilio is a visionary leader, who has seen St Therese's grow to a triple stream school, that is well regarded for innovative learning and academic excellence. Duilio has touched the lives of countless children and their parents, staff and members of the parish community, due to his kindness, care and compassion and respect of all those he meets. We wish Duilio all the very best as he starts this exciting new chapter in his career.

We also farewell the following staff:

- Mrs Susan Sheridan who will take on a full-time position in a library
- Mr Ben McCarthy, who has been appointed to the Diocese as an Aboriginal and Torres St Islander Education Officer. Mr McCarthy will be based at St Therese's, so we will still see him here at the school
- Mrs Alex Tibbins, who will complete her contract on Year 6 at the end of the year
- Mrs Natalie Warren who has been appointed as the permanent Learning Support Teacher, at St Kevin's Cardiff

Thank You

I would like to thank all the staff for their dedication and hard work each day. They always work with your children to ensure each child achieves to their best academically socially and emotionally. I look forward to another great year ahead.

Merry Christmas

I wish all staff, students and families a safe and holy Christmas. I hope you get to spend time with your loved ones over this very special time of the year. You are all very welcome to join us at St Therese's Church on Christmas Eve from 6pm for carols and the Christmas Mass.

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal

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



Dates to Remember

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

8 FEB 24 – KINDER PHOTOS

22/23 FEB – SCHOOL PHOTOS

Assistant Principal's Message

Office of Safeguarding

SchoolTV

This week we focus on **Dealing with Disappointment**

As young people learn to navigate through various aspects of their life, they may face disappointment due to unfulfilled expectations, shattered dreams, or unexpected setbacks. Yet, with the appropriate tools, strategies, and a positive mindset, young people can learn to cope with disappointment and use it as an opportunity for personal growth and success.

Disappointment can be a tricky emotion to deal with at any age. It is a normal part of growing up. However, children sometimes need reminding that they have a choice in how they respond to disappointment and their response will determine the impact it has on their future happiness. Overall, disappointment is a healthy and positive emotion and plays an integral part in a child's emotional, intellectual and social development.

Helping young people manage their disappointment is important in order to avoid stronger emotions such as anxiety and depression. Although a parent's first reaction may be to fix the problem, it is better to encourage your child to find the words to express how they feel.

In this Special Report, parents and caregivers are provided with strategies on how to help their child process disappointment and look at the problem objectively.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://newlambton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-dealing-disappointment

Swimming Carnival

On Monday we held a very successful swimming carnival at Newcastle University's Forum pool. A huge thanks to the many parent volunteers who helped the day run smoothly. Thank you to the staff and students as well who still had some energy at this very busy time of year to participate with enthusiasm and wonderful school spirit. We will celebrate our three boy and three girl age champions (junior, under 11 and senior) on Friday at our awards assembly. Later this week, students will learn of the winning house, receive ribbons and be notified of who will represent St Therese's at the Regional carnival next year.

Ben McCarthy
Assistant Principal

Religious Education

Advent – The Second Sunday of Advent has just passed and, along with it, another beautiful reflection, written by Nick Brodie, about Pope Francis' call to all Christians to live as prophets of our time.

As this will also be the last Newsletter for 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for continuing to choose a Catholic education for your child/ren - encouraging them to develop their spirituality and grow in the faith. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ be with you and your families this festive season – Merry Christmas to you all! I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year:

Munching insects and honey in the wilderness, John the Baptist was clearly a memorable figure. But as noteworthy as his camel shirt clearly appeared, John did not want attention for his own sake. John's core message, the Gospel of Mark tells us, is that we need to respond to the God who approaches us.

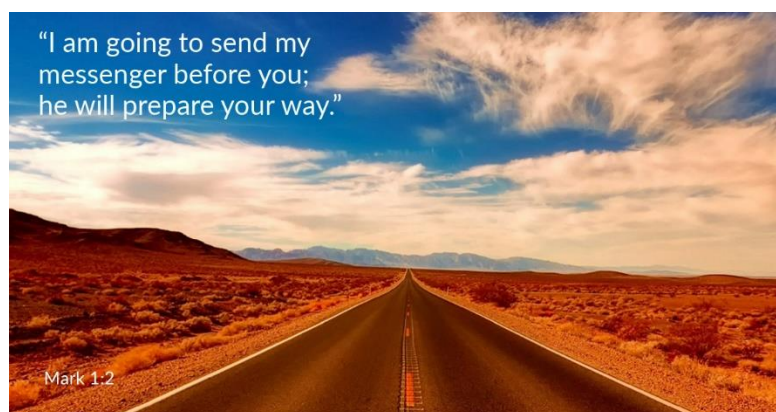
Pope Francis says something that echoes John's approach. In one of his apostolic exhortations he encourages us as follows: 'Your life ought to be a prophetic stimulus to others to leave a mark on this world.' What Pope Francis means is that we are all meant to be voices in the wildernesses of our time.

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



During Advent, therefore, we are all called to be welcoming voices singing a prophetic tune. As Pope Francis has often encouraged us, we should be good stewards for all creation. Christians should take the lead in caring for the earth and the poor who inhabit it. Similarly, the Pope has encouraged us to be a synodal people, learning to walk and talk together in harmony as the People of God. Christians should not cling to divisive nostalgias, but cherish what matters and face the future with openness and confidence.

Taken from: <https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Dec10/0/RefNickB>



Christmas Eve Mass: Nativity Presentation – Thank you to those parents who have indicated that your child/ren will be available and keen to participate in the dramatization of the Gospel during **Christmas Eve Mass** (Sunday 24th Dec. at 6:30pm). Carols will begin at 6pm prior to the commencement of Mass. Notes have been sent home this week with these children indicating allocated roles and further information.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal & Busking 4 Vinnies – Thank you for your extremely generous support over the past few weeks sending in items of food to contribute towards the Vinnies Christmas Hampers. In addition, some of our students across Yrs 2 -6 nominated themselves to 'Busk 4 Vinnies' at recess time with a total of \$92 raised towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Some photos are included below:

St John's Villa: Christmas Visit &



Celebration – Last Wednesday all of Year 5 students and teachers were accompanied by myself and Miss Soo to St John's Villa for an end-of-year Christmas celebration. I could not have been prouder of our students and the way they conducted themselves. It was a magical experience to watch them interact so gently and generously with the residents, where they engaged in Christmas craft activities, presented Each of the residents with a Christmas card and sang Christmas songs. Please see photos following that show the joy of taking part in this important community outreach.

Free Piano

I am looking to give away my late husband's Yamaha baby grand piano to a passionate instrument lover, so let me know if you will take it or have someone who will care for it.

Email:

janicelawson118@gmail.com

Regards, Mrs Janice Lawson

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Luke Smith,
RE Coordinator

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 if 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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2023

We have had an overwhelming response to our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal and on behalf of Year 5 Mini Vinnies I would like to express how reaffirming it is to witness the gift of kindness from our school community. The ladies from the local St Vincent de Paul chapter were thrilled with the amount of goods donated and are busy putting together hampers to deliver to those families in need this Christmas.

Anne Sturt
Year 5 Teacher

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 showing **integrity**:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating COURAGE by showing integrity					
KN	Stella D	KW	Jarrah S	KL	Grace P
	Emily M		Matilda D		Tansy T
1N	Freddy W	1W	Evie P	1L	Bronte K
	Maia L		Cillian M		Oscar M
		2W	Ella C	2L	Audrey L
			Adelaide K		Henry W
3N	Harry C	3W	Maddisia C	3L	Mabel C
	Jamie P		Archie S		Joshua P
4N	Tighe C	4W	Brodie L	4L	Frankie H
	Eloise C		Stella R		Max R
5N	Bluey M	5W	Miah F	5L	Zoey D
	Oliver S		Lucia R		Indah P
6N	Oliver B	6W	Aleksander S	6L	Alexis B
	Emily F		Alyssa H		Hugh B

Principal Awards

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

Principal Awards					
1N	Amelia M	1L	Safowan K	2W	Grace H Xavier S
2L	Florence R Grady B Archie S	3N	James P Bella A Talulah A Jake H	3W	Abbey C
3L	Mia D Rosemary L Gabriella S Amelia G Ben C Harry D Alexander P	4L	Evie T	5N	Annabel R
5L	Hudson G Lachlan C Jasmyn M Ethan O Ryder P				

The above students will receive a Principal's Award at their class assembly.

Melissa Pyers
Primary Coordinator

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



Gifted Education News Term 4

Congratulations to our Virtual Academy students; Harry N, Phoebe M, Rose H, Eden H, Sage T and Anna V who presented their final projects to a virtual audience across the diocese. Their commitment and dedication to the program has been outstanding. Their chosen topics were.

Phoebe M- Maintaining respectful friendships. Phoebe created a Powerpoint and Kahootz on this topic and interviewed her peers to gauge current issues that arise with friendships.

Harry N- Created a puppet show video for children about how to stay safe if there is a break in at home. Harry investigated current statistics around the world on this issue. He researched various sources as to how to act safely if this happens.

Anna V- Investigated the importance of eating fruit and vegetables in season to reduce food wastage and help the environment. Anna surveyed class members to gauge their understanding of the benefits of eating seasonal fruit and vegetables. She was able to teach her peers about the environmental benefits of eating fresh produce which is in season.

Sage T- Researched Climate Change and its impact on our natural environment. Sage created a Kahootz to survey classmates about their knowledge of Climate Change. She investigated the everyday activities we can all do to make a difference to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Rose H- Studied and researched gender inequality and forms of discrimination. Rose critically analysed examples in history of discrimination against women in areas such as technology, sport and literature.


Eden H- Investigated plastic and oil pollution in our marine environments. Eden surveyed class members to test their knowledge of this issue. She created a video about the impact of this pollution on marine ecosystems to educate her peers about this topic.



Year 6 Extension Writing Podcast- Written by Anna V

Welcome to 'The Final Pages!' A podcast written, recounted and recorded by Extension Writing, Yr 6 2023. In this podcast we explore our Year 6 journey while talking about the highlights of our year. In order to create this podcast, we needed a variety of subjects to talk about.... all of the intriguing topics we address have been brainstormed by the students of Year 6 Extension Writing and include: The dos and don'ts of school camp, an interview with a major Swiftie, a talk with a kindergarten buddy and some funny advertisements, imagined by creative students to break it all up. Everyone has different roles as you need lots of different personalities and viewpoints to create something truly amazing. So tune in to 'The Final Pages' and join us for a relaxing and funny experience.

Here is the podcast:

 [The Final Pages- Year 6 Podcast 1.mp3](#)

Stage 3 Extension Writers can also find this podcast on our MS Team- Authors and Poets.

Poster by Oliver S



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Professional Piano Lessons at School

If you would like to give your child the opportunity to learn music from professional music teachers that have specialised in piano for the last 16 years then give us a call and we will take care of the rest.

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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Michael Nolan

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