



## Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers

Week 9, only 2 full weeks of school to go. This week is expected to be quite hot, so please ensure your child has their hat and a drink bottle each day. Depending on the weather, some grades may not be able to go to Alder Park if it is too hot.

## Farewell to Mrs Janine Schneider

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Janine Schneider was seconded to St Patrick's Primary School Swansea, this year, as Acting Assistant Principal. Last week it was confirmed that Mrs Schneider has been successful in being appointed as the permanent Assistant Principal at Swansea from 2024, we congratulate Mrs Schneider on her role, and wish her all the very best. We are currently in the process of recruitment for a permanent Primary Coordinator, we hope to finalise this by the end of Week 10. Mrs Pyers has been in the role of Acting Primary Coordinator this year, to replace Mrs Schneider.

## Year 6 Graduation

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Year 6 Graduation Liturgy and Awards Ceremony, commencing at 6:00pm at St Therese's Church. I would like to thank Mr Smith, Mr Paton, Mrs Karbowski, Mr Moore, Mr Hartcher and Mrs Tibbins for all the organisation for this very special evening.

## Christmas Cards and Candy Canes

As the festive is upon us, and children enjoy handing our cards to their friends and peers. Many children like to attach candy canes/chocolates etc. to the cards, which is lovely, though there is a concern from some parents and staff about the amount of sugar and hard candy children are eating. So, to enjoy we continue the festive spirit, and look after the health of the children, all children will be asked to take home the candy canes/chocolates etc., where parents can monitor how much their children are eating.

## End of Year Awards

The award presentation for students in Years K-5 will be held on **Friday 15 December** in the school hall. The ceremony will commence at 9:30am, we ask all parents/carers etc. to be seated by 9:25am. The ceremony will include the presentation of awards, performance by the school concert band and the Kindergarten Nativity Play. The ceremony will finish at approximately 11am.

## Dates to Remember

**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 – 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL YR1-6**

**5 FEB 24 - 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF KINDER**

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



### **End of Year Band Concert**

Thank you to Mr Ward and the St Therese's Concert Band, for your wonderful performance yesterday. Students and families that attended were entertained by several festive favourites, as well as a performance piece and a solo by Sage T. We are so lucky to have so many talented musicians at the school. I thank Mr Ward, for his dedication to our band, and for all he does to teach our students music.



### **2024 Student Leadership Team**

Following the leadership speeches and voting over the past few weeks, I would like to congratulate our student leaders for 2024.

School Captains: Spencer P and Claire A

Student Council:

- Active Lifestyle – Spencer P and Jasmyn M
- Social Justice – Vienne T, Claire A and Lachlan F
- PBS – Alexander J and Bailey B
- Environment – Mackenzie H and Brock H

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Colour House Captains

- Casey (Blue): Hudson G and Evie C
- Cyril (Gold): Lucia R and John D
- Walsh (Green): Jake M and Miah F
- Wright (Red): Indigo H and Jack

We congratulate our student leaders for 2024. They will be formally introduced to the school community at the End of Year Awards Presentation on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, and will receive their badges at our Opening School Mass in 2024.

**Kaylene Maretich**  
Acting Principal

## **Assistant Principal's Message**

**Office of Safeguarding**  
**SchoolTV**

This week we focus on Resilience

Resilience is important for a child's mental health. It is their ability to bounce back from failure, challenges, adversity and stress. It's not something that kids have or don't have but a skill that kids develop over time as they grow. Building resilience not only helps a child deal with current difficulties, but it also helps develop a resilient mindset that will help them deal with challenges later in life. All children are capable of working through challenges and coping with stress, but they require guidance and support from a charismatic adult role model.

“Resilience is key to addressing mental health issues. We need to allow our kids to experience adversity. There is a tendency to shield our kids because parents have become a bit over-protective.”

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Follow the link to explore more:

<https://newlambton.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/resilience>

**Ben McCarthy**  
Assistant Principal

## **Religious Education**

**Advent** – The following piece, written by Nick Brodie, is a reflection on Pope Francis' teaching about the Season of Advent and what it really means to 'be on guard' and 'awake' as true disciples of Christ:

*Advent is a season best lived in a wakeful way. Pope Francis has characterised it as 'a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history.' Every year we prepare for Christ's final return by preparing to celebrate his birth, all while reminding ourselves that he is already present. This season is therefore a time in which every Christian is called 'to listen to the Lord who knocks', as the Pope put it. Jesus is knocking already; it is we who need to wake from our slumber and spring into action. The Church isn't a waiting room. We need to do more than sit and wait. While a season of expectation, Advent is also an annual reminder that the Christian adventure is already underway!*

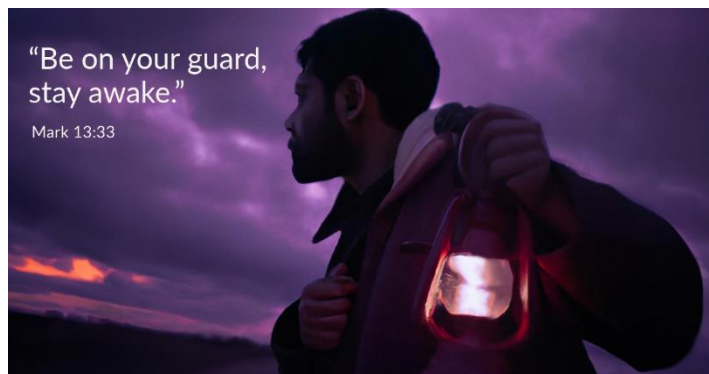
*To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*



Which is what being 'on guard' really means. It is not a negative sort of guardedness, closed off from the world. Rather, the gist of Jesus' message is about readiness, preparedness, awareness. As Pope Francis says, this means we should strive to avoid being 'overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality'.

Admittedly, there is much to be distracted by at this time of year. Yet, in the end life is not measured by Christmas presents but by being truly present. As the Pope says, Jesus wants each one of us to be a person who 'lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others.'

Taken from: <https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Dec03/0/RefNickB>



**Christmas Nativity** – Thank you to those parents who have already indicated that their children will be available and keen to participate in the dramatization of the Gospel during **Christmas Eve Mass** (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 6:30pm). Carols will begin at 6pm prior to the commencement of Mass. If your child is available and interested in participating, please email me directly as soon as possible so that roles can be allocated: [luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:luke.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au)

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal & Busking 4 Vinnies** – Thank you to those people who have already made generous donations of food supplies towards the Christmas Appeal. Tomorrow at recess, some of our students have volunteered their talents to busk out on the playground. We are inviting students to bring in some loose change and drop a few coins into the buckets, with all money raised going towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal also. If any final food donations could please be sent in by the end of the week, these will then be passed on to the local St Vincent de Paul chapter.

**Catholic Mission: 'Socktober', Thank You** – The following message has been sent from Catholic Mission regarding your generosity surrounding this event in early Term 4: *Thank you for your generous donation of \$902.80 supporting the work of Catholic Mission and giving life to what we do. Your kindness and faithfulness inspire us, and we are ever grateful for you.*

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 11/12	Tues 12/12	Wed 13/12	Thurs 14/12	Fri 15/12
Elesha F	Kylie M	Connie M		Anna P
Catherine D	Odette T			Kareena G
	Sue J			Sally Curzi

### 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**

#### *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](mailto:lillianspianostudio@hotmail.com)



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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 showing **integrity**:

School Spirit Award for demonstrating COURAGE by showing integrity					
KN	Sally D Nicolaas H	KW	Julien A Saul G	KL	Hamshayini R Minnah W
1N	Tully R Rafferty M	1W	Hudson J Charlotte S	1L	Aiden M Sophie M
		2W	Tobias C Coby H	2L	Mateo V Wren D
3N	Ava H Eddie H	3W	Orlando R Henry B	3L	Vanessa C Santiago P
4N	Declan O Grace O	4W	Noah M Knox R	4L	Jack R Zac W
5N	Arabella H Olive L	5W	Mia S Dempsey G	5L	Beau R Malia W
6N	Sunny A Martin W	6W	Spencer B Harvey L	6L	Samuel M Oliver S

## Principal Awards

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

Principal Awards					
KN	Freddy J Augusta K Angus M Bodi S	KW	James M Hollie M Jules W	KL	Archie V Grace P
1N	Declan P	1L	Violet W Leo G	2W	Xavier O
2L	Sam B	4N	Sienna G	4W	Georgie A
5W	Brock H	5L	Esmeralda H Sophie L	6N	Hope B

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

**Melissa Pyers**  
Primary Coordinator

## Sport Achievement

Last weekend Martin W from Year 5 competed at the Australian National Championships in Karate and won two gold and two silver medals. He is now a National Champion in his age division in Koshiki and Clash Sparring. He is also a Runner-Up National Champion in Kata and in 12-13 year olds division in Koshiki.

Martin trains at Pollet's Martial Arts Centre in Adamstown who have skilled and experienced instructors that provide Martin with a friendly, respectful and supportive atmosphere so he can achieve his goals.



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## Christmas Community Concert

A huge thank you to all our talented Band Students for sharing the Christmas spirit at the Fellowship Group Uniting church last Tuesday! Extremely proud of the way they performed and most had made Christmas cards to hand out. I'm a lucky Band Director to have such a caring, sharing group.

**Howard Ward Music**

**Ph: 0419 663 389**



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*Michael Nolan*  
VOCAL STUDIO

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## St Therese's New Lambton

Every individual voice is as unique as their fingerprints and for the past 11 years the Michael Nolan Vocal Studio has been helping vocalists get the most out of their natural ability, building their confidence along the way.

- Convenience of learning singing from an award winning studio on site and within school hours.
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### Contact Us

- ☎ 0412 464 565
- 🌐 [www.michaelnolanvocalstudio.com](http://www.michaelnolanvocalstudio.com)
- ✉ [michael.j.nolan@outlook.com](mailto:michael.j.nolan@outlook.com)



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### **POETRY CLUB PERFORMANCE NIGHT**

Congratulations to all the talented poets that successfully performed at the Newcastle Comedy Club last week. We had students from Kinder to Year 4 reading their own poetry which was thoroughly entertaining. The students were so impressive on stage! A special and sincere thankyou to Susan Sheridan for mentoring the students and being the fabulous MC for the night. Her original poem which featured a stanza about each student was brilliant and loved by the audience. We are so lucky at our school to have this opportunity for our passionate writers to showcase their skills. Thankyou to the Newcastle Comedy Club for donating their atmospheric venue which made the night so memorable. Watch this space for Poetry Club 2024!

